

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, August 22, 2013

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Riding high

Skate park plans spark joy for youngsters

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New signings

Young Wolves players sign shirts for fans

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Experts to help with campaign for Hippo

CAMPAIGNERS battling to save Dudley Hippodrome will boost their fight by bringing new legal advisers on board to help them sell their vision for the venue.

Protesters said they have been given a boost after plans to demolish the 1930s theatre in Castle Hill were put on hold by councillors at a meeting last week.

Members of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group are in talks to bring a solicitor and accountant onto the management committee to help revamp their business plan for running the theatre. They said they need the experience of two legal professionals to add weight to their campaign.

Group chairman Geoff Fitzpatrick said Dudley Council's planning committee's decision to defer its decision proved there is uncertainty from councillors over a proposed redevelopment masterplan. Dudley Council wants to knock down the theatre to create a temporary car park on the site as part of the £10 million regeneration of Castle Hill. The land has been earmarked for a £3m education and conference centre for Dudley Zoo.

It is unclear now when the plans will come back before the planning committee but Mr Fitzpatrick said the delay had allowed the group's campaign to gather momentum.

£1.3m work put on hold

A £1.3 MILLION project to ease congestion at a busy junction on a main commuter route through the Black Country is on hold after the Government refused funding for the scheme.

Councils in Wolverhampton and Dudley will now need to find the money elsewhere before the job can start work on the Birmingham New Road at its junction with Shaw Road, in Cosley.

The scheme has been drawn up to make the route safer for pedestrians and motorists as well as reducing queues.

LORRY KILLS MAN FLEEING 'ATTACKER'

A MAN was killed by a lorry when he ran into the road as he fled from a dispute near a Quarry Bank car wash.

Police have been investigating reports suggesting the 26-year-old was being chased by an attacker wielding a hammer. The accident happened in Thorns Road at around 3.30pm on Tuesday.

The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

Officers have confirmed that the man – who, at the time of going to press, had not yet been named – had been involved in a dispute with another man in the area of the Formula 1 Hand Car Wash moments before the accident.

The dual carriageway, near the Merry Hill shopping centre, was closed in both directions while police carried out their investigations and the force helicopter circled the scene. It happened near Thorns Primary School and the Thorns pub.

A police cordon was set up around the car wash and neighbouring homes yesterday, with three officers at the scene.

Hammer

One onlooker, who did not want to be named, said he heard there was a fight and thought the man was being chased when he was knocked down.

He said: "Someone was chasing him with a hammer, and he ran out into the road, coming out from a side road."

Nasar Hussain, who owns the Formula 1 Hand Car Wash, said the dispute had taken place along a public right of way near to his business. "My staff did not see what happened. They heard a noise and came outside to see the man had been hit," he said.

"The forecourt has been cordoned off by police because the collision took

By Adam Grinsell

place outside. We have provided investigating officers with CCTV footage to help with their inquiries."

Samantha Bowskill, a self-employed nail technician who lives nearby, said: "We came out about 3.30pm when they were putting the police ribbons up, and I thought it wasn't a normal accident because they were closing the whole road."

Another resident, who has lived along Thorns Road for 30 years, said police had descended on the scene in high numbers.

She said: "I saw about 10 police cars in all along with ambulances. They remained here in the road for hours as the investigation started."

"There are a lot of rumours flying about about what happened but at the moment no-one really knows for sure."

"I know the road remained completely closed up until 10.30pm when one lane was opened up."

The lorry involved in the fatal accident was from Bilston based firm Highfield Haulage Ltd.

Firm spokesman Gary Owen today said the male driver had been left "very shaken" by the accident.

Police are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

The road remained closed for more than four hours. Anyone with information should call CID at Harborne on 101.

Big hello to new faces at museum



Taking a stroll are, from left, Roger Vincent, Ann Key, Colin MacDonald, Nigel Westwood-Burges and Lucy Elliott

A HOST of new characters have stepped out of history to share their stories of the past with visitors to the Black Country Living Museum.

And for one demonstrator, the role she has taken on has a poignant link to her own grandmother.

Bosses from the attraction, in Tipton Road, have launched the new characters in response to changes to the National Curriculum due to be

introduced next year. A doctor, undertaker, chimney sweep, pie-man, Salvation Army worker, a widower, midwife, street seller, postwoman and 1930s cyclist are among the characters added to museum's stable of demonstrators.

Among them is Ann Key, a museum worker of 14 years, who is playing an early 20th century postwoman. It was a role many women took on for the first time during the two World Wars – and

one of them was Ann's own grandmother Ria Howell.

Another demonstrator was 63-year-old Colin MacDonald, who has the role of a 1930s cyclist. And the bike he rides is a faithful reproduction of a Pashley model – created to the specifications of the period. Mr MacDonald, who has worked at the museum for two years, said: "It is all about getting the chance to interact with visitors."

Revamp at zoo to bring in new look

NEW SHOPS will be created, food outlets given a new look and the farm at Dudley Zoo will also get a makeover in the next phase of the tourist attraction's £3 million revamp.

A medieval-themed castle experience attraction and extension to the great apes paddock is among other work earmarked for completion by 2016.

New signs will also be installed across the 40-acre site.

This work will be funded by the zoo, as part of its four-year improvement programme which began last year, while repairs will be carried out on the roadways at the entrance with the help of a European funding grant.

Work is also due to start next month on the restoration of four of the Tecton buildings – the wave entrance, safari shop, bear ravine and kiosk.

The £1.15m project, which also included repairing and reopening the chairlift last year, is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This is being boosted by the zoo which will invest £600,000 on a retail complex, Tecton interpretation centre and the upgrading of the toilets and food outlets.

A further phase of work will see the creation of a medieval-themed experience, which aims to offer visitors an insight into the history of Dudley Castle.

Next Murray search is on

ANDY Murray wannabes can follow in the Wimbledon, Olympic and US Open Champion's footsteps at a series of tennis classes in Halesowen.

Children between the ages of eight and 12 can learn the skills of the game during sessions running from August 26 to 28 at Halesowen tennis club and there is a fee for taking part.

For more information visit www.dudley.gov.uk and search for summer activezone activities.

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Kings Head pub among latest lots up for grabs



The Kings Head in Mill Street, Brierley Hill

A PUB in Brierley Hill is among many older buildings – some of which are listed as protected – going under the hammer in an auction to be held next month.

More than 100 lots are coming up at the next CPBigwood auction on Thursday September 5 at Villa Park.

A total of 13 pubs from across the West Midlands, in Staffordshire and the Black Country, are set to go under the hammer, as further evidence of just how tough the trade has been despite the boost of a hot summer.

The Kings Head, at 15 Mill Street in Brierley Hill, is up for sale for around £150,000.

It is described by auctioneers CPBigwood as: "A freehold commercial investment opportunity, having a current rental income of £18,200 a year."

The sale also includes nine lots put up by local authorities – one for Birmingham, six for Walsall and two for Wolverhampton – nine residential investments, six commercial investments, one freehold ground rent and a host of houses and flats.

The auction takes place at the Holte Suite at Villa Park. The event starts at 11am.

Scrap dealer sentenced over part in £20k fraud

A SCRAP dealer from Sedgley has been spared jail for his part in a conspiracy that saw more than £20,000 of diesel stolen from petrol stations.

David Ward would buy the fuel with a card that had been stolen from BIL Logistics Limited in Halesowen, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 48-year-old would then take it back to a third party named in court as Sam. Ward, of Dovedale Court, would get around 10 per cent of the value of the fuel he had taken.

Talking bus stops start new era for passengers

BUS passengers in the Black Country will have no excuse for getting lost after the start of a roll-out of talking bus stops across the region.

Just two months after National Express West Midlands launched its first Black Country-accent voice system telling people what stop they were at on the number 1 bus, Centro has launched a line of talking bus terminals.

One of the first to be introduced is the stop outside Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley. It is activated with a key fob and is designed to help those with sight problems. The transport firm is also bringing in an even newer type of talking bus stop which is activated with a button.

Centro spokesman Peter Cameron said: "Once activated the fobs allow the user to hear information on which bus routes are available from the stop they are at, as well as providing some real time information on when the next buses will arrive."

In total, £20,727.69 of diesel was stolen from garages in the region. The court was told Ward was caught when accountants for the Halesowen firm had noticed their fuel card had been used 11 times in one day on February 14, 2011.

Ms Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said: "The card allowed fuel to be used at Total and BP garages. Both petrol companies stopped the card and contacted the police."

"The defendant was then identified through CCTV."

Mr Stephen Blower, defending, said Ward was hired to do the job because other conspirators knew he was struggling financially. It was heard Ward had had a kidney transplant and was unable to work.

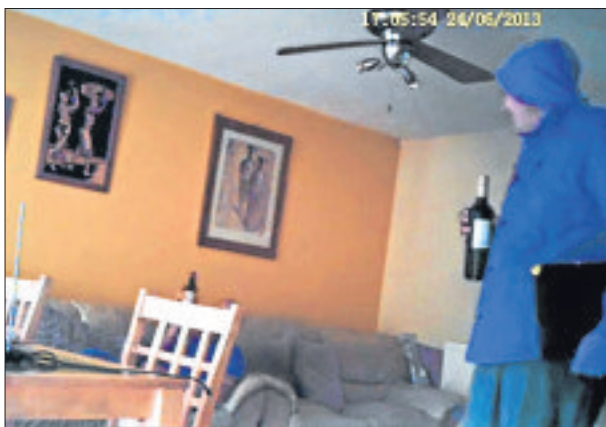
Identified

Mr Blower said: "Mr Ward decided the risk involved in this operation wasn't worth taking. He knew he was going to be processed and he put his back into making a decent fist of his life."

Ward pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation. He was given a 12-month sentence suspended for 18 months. He must take part in the Thinking Skills Programme.

Ward pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation. He was given a 12-month sentence suspended for 18 months. He was also given a 12-month supervision requirement.

Cheeky raiders caught red-handed



Luke Smith holds a bottle of wine as he talks to Law on the sofa, seen behind the chair

Burglars rise to decoy-home bait

THIS is the moment cheeky burglars were caught on camera lounging on a sofa and drinking from a wine bottle after breaking into a house in the Black Country.

Hidden police cameras captured Craig Law and Luke Smith as they strolled around the home, while microphones picked up complaints about the lack of items to steal from the Dudley house.

The amazing video clip, released by West Midlands Police, shows Smith wanting to leave before neighbours could raise the alarm. But Law decides to make himself comfortable and begins opening what he believed was a bottle of wine from the kitchen.

What they did not know was that the house was a 'decoy-home', controlled by West Midlands Police to catch burglars red-handed. When Law realised the bottle was filled with water, he poured the contents on

by Adam Burling

the carpet and tried to wipe his fingerprints from the bottle with his T-shirt. He dropped it on the floor and then complains that the homeowner must be 'cheap'.

Law, who lived in the same street as the burgled house in Duncan Edwards Close, was arrested within hours after he was recognised by officers who saw the CCTV.

Smith handed himself into police on July 13. Law, aged 34, was jailed for eight months at Wolverhampton Crown Court, while Smith, of Chichester Avenue, Netherton, received a 10-week suspended sentence at Dudley Magistrates Court. Both admitted the burglary, which happened in broad daylight on June 24.

Police had installed the cameras in the house, which was recently vacated. They have set up a number of decoy properties, in houses, sheds, outbuildings and garages.

Npower will move staff out of block

A MAJOR energy supplier will have all its staff moved out of an office block in Kingswinford by the end of October as it moves forward with plans for the closure of the site.

Npower announced last year it was closing its base in High Street base following a review by parent company RWE. The site once stationed 285 workers. But in a leaked email to Dudley South MP Chris Kelly, the firm revealed it was nearing the end of its consultation process with staff remaining at the large site.

While npower staff have been relocated to offices in Oldbury and Worcester, remaining RWE IT employees are being offered redundancy or relocation.

In the email to Mr Kelly, Siobhan O'Loughlin, customer public affairs manager at npower, said: "The plan is that all staff will have left the building by the end of October and we will have vacated the property entirely by the end of the year."

Appeal for blaze help

A CHARITY group in Dudley today appealed for businesses to help boost security at its site following an arson attack which destroyed a youth hub.

Managers at St Thomas's Network in Kates Hill, Dudley, have been left devastated by the blaze which caused thousands of pounds of damage, last Tuesday.

They are now asking firms and individuals who may be able to provide CCTV cameras to help protect the site from further attacks to get in touch.

The youth building at the community centre in Beechwood Road was gutted by the fire. Jennifer Gregory, from the charity's senior management team, said there had also previously been some vandalism at the site, including an attempt to steal lead from the roof.

Objections over homes scheme

FRESH objections have been lodged against plans for 175 homes in a village near Stourbridge.

The scheme earmarked for land in Hagley by Cala Homes already has outline planning permission – despite a 4,000-name petition and public protests.

But the development got district council backing in January. Hagley Parish Council is now working with Cala to ensure the village benefits from the scheme.

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Outdoor learning boost for children

A TEAM of volunteers from two Black Country firms has created an outdoor learning garden for a school in Stourbridge.

A group of 14 from the legal firm Higgs & Sons, based in Kingswinford and Brierley Hill, made the improvements at Hob Green Primary School in Stourbridge.

Working with a team from Willenhall-based food and drink specialist AF Blakemore & Son, the group planted palm trees, painted a mural, built two sandpit boats and purchased picnic tables and seaside learning materials to create an area for the children to play and learn in.

Nyree Applegarth, a partner at the law firm, who managed the project, said: "We were really keen to help out with this gardening project and put our green fingers to good use."

"We wanted to provide the pupils with a sensory-filled space that enables them to enjoy a bright, colourful seaside area, even if the sea is many miles away."

Headteacher, Stuart Brown, added: "The whole school and its wider community are so grateful to Nyree and AF Blakemore. They have made a real difference to our fantastic school."

Working with Business in the Community Higgs & Sons has helped in a number of initiatives, including providing care and support for the elderly.

Van is back after theft

A FUNERAL services van stolen from a South Staffordshire churchyard as workers were placing a gravestone is now back with its rightful owners.

The Bedford pick-up truck belonging to Wombourne & Kinver Memorials was stolen in broad daylight from the front of St Benedict's Church in Wombourne on July 9.

It was found days later in Sedgley but has been in the hands of insurers since and has just been returned to grateful bosses at the firm, which has been running for around 30 years.

It is believed that it was stolen for the high lifting arm at the rear. "We think it will cost around £2,500 to replace the lifting arm," said boss John Cumiskey.

PTA founder pocketed £4,000 from fundraisers

A FOUNDING member of a school parent and teachers' association pocketed almost £4,000 from fundraising events, a court has heard.

Natalie Field deceived PTA members at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, in Brierley Hill, saying she was planning to bank cash in a high interest savings account.

The 35-year-old made regular withdrawals of up to £300 from the PTA account using a bank card given to the founding members.

Dudley Magistrates Court heard she was also given responsibility for banking money

from PTA fundraising events such as Easter fairs held at the Mill Street school.

But not all the money was being banked into accounts and Field was taking hundreds of pounds for herself, the court was told yesterday.

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said Field told police she was struggling financially following the break-up of her relationship and was in fear of losing her home.

Field, of Acres Road, Quarry Bank, pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to stealing £3,900 from the PTA between December 31 2010 and December 15 2012.

Chairman of the bench, Mr Alan Willitts,

told Field: "It is a very serious offence and you could have gone to prison today. You were in a position of trust and we were very concerned about that."

"I'm sure that the PTA is not happy with what has gone on." He sentenced her to serve a 12-month community order with supervision from the probation service.

Establish

Field was ordered to pay back the £3,900 in compensation alongside £85 court costs and a £60 victim surcharge.

Mr Cooper said Field had helped establish the new PTA group with the school secre-

tary and a dinner lady at the time. All were given bank cards to use but only Field came to collect hers to take it home, the court heard.

He said Field began taking money, around £300 a time initially, eventually siphoning £1,470 in total. Further cash was taken by pocketing the difference from money raised by events at the school, Mr Cooper added.

PTA members only became aware of Field's actions after the bank account started going into its overdraft, the court was told.

Mr Gerry Vahey, defending, said: "She is very sorry for what she has done."

Yobs urinate on food during £6,000 damage at day centre

YOBS have caused around £6,000 worth of damage during a burglary at a pensioners' day centre, including urinating on food destined for lunchtime meals.

Volunteers have been forced to close the Age Concern day centre, in Green Lane, Halesowen, since the attack, which they say has left them reeling.

The centre, which caters for around 40 pensioners aged from 65 to 100 each day, has had to arrange an alternative meeting place at another centre in Stourbridge while the mess is cleared up.

Police have launched an investigation into the raid, which happened at around 3.30am on Monday.

Thieves set off a burglar alarm when they tried to break into the building, which holds social gatherings and serves up daily meals. They then climbed onto a porch entrance door roof and ripped the alarm off the wall to stop it ringing.

They tried wrenching lead flashing off the roof before breaking off a section of the iron fence outside to use as a crowbar on the main door.

Volunteers believe they levered open the door before ransacking the offices towards the rear of the building. The office was turned over, with raffle prizes taken from a cupboard. They were due to be sold off to help raise funds.

The intruders also wrecked a CCTV and alarm

by Andrew Turton

system and broke open drawers that contained £60 in cash.

Stunned volunteers say valuable food, which is bought to cook meals for the pensioners, was also taken from fridges and freezers.

The thieves also stole cutlery including knives, spoons and forks, and then urinated on the food that they could not carry.

Centre director and ward councillor Ken Turner said: "I am absolutely appalled by this. It is hitting some of the most disadvantaged people in our community. It is also the mindless damage which I can't understand and why would they urinate on food? It's disgusting." Councillor Turner said they will be tightening security in the wake of the attack.

Centre secretary Brian Mitchell, aged 69, who is among those who have helped with the clean-up, added: "I think that is very, very sad and will cost the centre money, and charities like ourselves are struggling at the moment." Police are investigating.

New Sunday service bid

A NEW Sunday service from Stourbridge to Bridgnorth will run until September 8.

The Whittles 125 service will leave Stourbridge Bus Station at 9.45am, with two return services from Bridgnorth - the last one leaving at 3.15pm. There will also be links to Kidderminster. David Shipp, general manager at Whittle Coach & Bus Ltd, said: "Despite a lack of financial support, we have taken the risk to try this new service."

Doctors' last orders at pub for TV soap



The cast and crew of the popular daytime BBC soap Doctors who filmed at the Windsor Castle Inn, Lye, Stourbridge

CAMERAS have been rolling at a micro-brewery in Lye where scenes for BBC One soap Doctors have been shot.

A film crew descended on the Windsor Castle Inn, home to Sadlers Brewery, to capture action for an episode which will air in November.

It features a storyline based on a brother and sister owning a brewery and pub - and was similar to real life brother and sister Chris and Emily Sadler who run the Windsor Castle.

For the scenes the name of the premises was changed to Aldbrook Brewing

Company. Among the actors that visited were Ian Midlane, who plays GP Al Haskoy, and Owen Brennan, who stars as Dr Heston Carter.

Emily, who is manager of the Windsor Castle Inn, said staff were pleased to welcome the actors and crew. "The BBC approached us about three weeks ago. They had looked into a couple of other local breweries but decided it was ours that was the best for what they wanted," she said.

"They arrived about 8am and our brewery soon turned into a television

set. There was approximately 30 actors and crew who filled the car park with vans full of behind the scenes recording and filming equipment."

"Two scenes were filmed in the bar area before the pub opened and several dramatic scenes were filmed in the brewery. The episode is planned to be aired in November." It's not the first time the pub has been featured on the small screen as it was visited by wine guru Oz Clarke and Top Gear presenter James May as part of their Oz and James Drink to Britain show.

NEWS in brief

Councillors join power plant fight

THREE councillors have backed a residents' campaign against plans to build a recycling plant in the Black Country.

Dudley councillors Karen Jordan, John Martin and Judy Foster have submitted an objection to the proposal for the plant on land off Moor Street in Brierley Hill.

So far 150 letters from residents have been sent in to Dudley Council opposing the scheme by a firm called Clean Power, which says the plant would power 10,000 homes. But residents fear an increase in traffic and odours.

Clean Power said the plant would create about 30 jobs and would turn household waste into gas to generate electricity.

Thousands take part in sessions

MORE than 2,500 children took part in five days of activities in Dudley, delighted council bosses have announced. Dudley play week is a free initiative provided each year to celebrate National Play Day.

Activities on offer included group games, sports, camp fires, den building and face painting.

The fifth annual play week visited Huntingtree Park, Silver Jubilee Park, Mary Stevens Park, Netherton Park and The Dell & Pens Pools in Brockmoor. Pensnett Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services, said: "This has been a fantastic week."

Zumba-ful way to fitness at centre

PEOPLE can dance their way to fitness with Zumba sessions at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre.

The centre has added aqua zumba to its already successful regular zumba programme. The hour long zumba class is inspired by salsa music and dancing.

The class runs on Mondays from 8pm and Wednesdays at 12.30pm. For details call 01384 812800 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport

Group has comic moments covered

MEMBERS of The Community Players are making final preparations for their comedy Kindly Keep It Covered.

It is being staged from September 11 to 14, at Oakfields Community Centre, Brettell Lane, Ambleside, to mark the group's 50th anniversary. Call 01384 394349 for tickets.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



BORIS Johnson says Britain should show 'the Falklands spirit' in the current spat with Spain over Gibraltar. So how do we do that, Boris? Send a Task Force south and kill another thousand young men?

□□□□□□□□

HERE'S a better idea. Let us accept that the Empire is no more, that these rather odd, Union Jack bedecked pimples on the map are an awkward legacy of imperialism and the sooner we get shot of them, the better. Gibraltar and the Falklands were acquired in the days when the ships of the British Empire needed refuelling ports. That role vanished years ago. We no longer need them and they are a hostage to fortune. No Government in Whitehall should be bound for all eternity by the wishes of far-off people to serve fish and chips and wave the Union Jack. When Margaret Thatcher boldly decided to hand Hong Kong back to China by 1997, she created enormous goodwill between London and Beijing and avoided any chance of a shooting war. Follow Boris Johnson's sabre-rattling and our next war could be fought on two fronts at the same time, in the Falklands and on Gibraltar, possibly with this reckless, mop-haired liability as our prime minister. God help us.

□□□□□□□□

IN my TA days I did two tours of duty with the Gibraltar garrison. I have to report that, for all the chips, pubs, red phone boxes, tattoo parlours and Union Jacks, Gib felt about as British as Madrid. But a reader disagrees. His verdict is that Gib is "like Walsall with sunshine." The perfect advertising slogan.

□□□□□□□□

IF YOU don't rejoice at the price of gas, food, public transport, electricity and water going up, then for goodness' sake, don't rejoice at the price of houses going up. It's all inflation.

□□□□□□□□

SCIENTISTS in Michigan killed laboratory rats with an overdose of anaesthetic and noted a surge in their brains' electrical activity just before they died. The boffins believe this may explain the near-death experiences reported by many folk who have almost died and been revived. I once interviewed a road-accident victim who'd had such an experience. He was utterly convinced that what he saw was a glimpse of the afterlife. From that moment, he told me, he lost all fear of death. But we live in a scientific age and if scientists wish to spend a few days killing rats and demolishing a cherished belief in heaven, so be it. Let us hope for their sake that, when we die we do not discover that Heaven and Hell really exist and that the entire selection process for paradise or purgatory is run by dedicated teams of laboratory rats, with a few scores to settle.

Thief used her aunt's card to withdraw £2k

by Adam Burling

A THIEF who stole her pensioner aunt's bank card and withdrew almost £2,000 from cash machines has been spared jail.

Sarah Louise Jones took the debit card from 67-year-old Rosemary Roberts's purse and pocketed up to £350 a time over nearly two weeks from machines in Dudley and Wolverhampton.

The 33-year-old mother of three also admitted stealing clothes and make-up worth more than £200 from stores in Wolverhampton and Dudley when she appeared in court last week. Prosecutor Mrs Jayne Yeomans told Wolverhampton Magistrates Court: "The victim was her aunt. She stole the card from her purse in her home and she used it six times to withdraw a total of £1,950."

The court heard the card was stolen on March 23. Jones withdrew £350 later that day, the same amount on March 24 and 25, £200 was withdrawn on March 29, along with £350 on April 3 and 4.

Jones, of Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, also stole make-up worth £92 from the Co-op in Abbey Road, Lower Gornal, on June 10 and clothes valued at £105 from Matalan in Wolverhampton on August 8. Mr Gerry Vahey, defending, said Jones had been battling a drug addiction and had lapsed.

He added she was now back on a course of methadone. Jones admitted six charges of fraud by false representation, two of theft from a shop and one theft. She was given a 12-week prison sentence for each of the fraud offences, suspended for 18 months. She also got eight weeks for each of the thefts, to run concurrently and suspended for the same period. She must pay £85 costs and £80 victim surcharge and will be under supervision for 18 months.

Famous mural to be restored



Councillor Tracy Wood by the acclaimed 1940s mural by Hans Feibusch, which is being repaired

WORK to repair damaged plaster on an acclaimed 1940s mural in Dudley Town Hall is under way.

It was created by German-born artist Hans Feibusch and can be seen on the wall at the back of the stage at the venue in St James' Road.

The valuable artwork has to be kept behind curtains for much of the time because of damage caused by bright lights to its delicate paintwork.

However, current remedial restoration work to some of the mural's plaster, which is coming away from the wall, has given the chance to have a glimpse at the historic piece.

Dudley's culture boss Tracy Wood welcomed the start of the work. Feibusch was commissioned by the council leaders of the day to produce the artwork which shows Roger de Somery hunting in the Royal Forest at Kinver.

Jobs boost as electric trike sales accelerate

A KINGSWINFORM engineering firm is playing a major role in the successful first year of a new electric vehicle designed, manufactured and assembled in the Midlands.

With £1.5 million of orders already in the pipeline, the three-wheeled Raptor is attracting major interest from police forces, private security firms and federal agencies in the US as well as from Australia.

Launched last year by Ecospin, the Raptor is the brainchild of brothers Paul and David Loomes, based in Leicester, backed by strategic and product development support from the Wolverhampton-based Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS).

As a result the company is now putting the finishing touches to a strategic partnership with ACE Forming, based on Kingswinford's Pensnett Estate, to set up a dedicated production line.

This move will give the duo the potential to manufacture between 1,500 and 2,000 vehicles every year and, if sold, will see sales reach £10m. ACE Forming managing director Ian Wiles said the plan was to open up a second factory unit on the Pensnett Estate dedicated to Raptor production.

"Currently we make the chassis and wiring loom. We have made 100 so far and this year production should reach 350," said Mr Wiles.

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From here we cross the second of Scotland's grand rail bridges the 'Tay Bridge', which is over 2 miles in length affording passengers further spectacular views of Tayside and the 'Kingdom of Fife' at a fairly sedate speed. A break of up to around 2 hours is taken at Dundee. The station is handy for the main amenities. Dundee's most famous attraction is the research ship 'Discovery', the very ship in which Captain Scott and Ernest Shackleton sailed to Antarctica.

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MP pleas for clarity on figures

CLEAR figures on council funding cuts are being demanded by a Black Country MP after it emerged local authorities face a further £1 billion reduction.

In June, George Osborne announced that council funding would be cut by 10 per cent. But the Local Government Association has put the figure at closer to 15 per cent, meaning £1 billion more than expected.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has tabled questions in Parliament asking for clarification.

Mr Austin said: "George Osborne hid £1 billion of cuts to local services in the smallprint of his spending review in June, and it's taken until now to find them."

Litter-pick project bid

RESIDENTS in Brierley Hill are being asked to nominate areas for a clean-up.

Asda in Pearson Street will be carrying out litter picks in the town. As part of the Big Litter Pick project bosses are appealing for staff to get involved.

Community Life Champion Steph Walker said: "We are really excited to hear where you think our Big Litter Pick Team can make a difference." Asda will provide all of the tools needed, including high visibility vests.

Call for permanent opening of town centre car park level

by Lee Watton

DRIVERS are struggling to get a parking space at a town centre's main multi-storey during the day - prompting calls for a closed level to be opened permanently.

Shutters remain in place at the upper floor of Stourbridge's Ryemarket car park despite hundreds of visitors using the site every day.

Campaigners in the town are now calling on Dudley Council to open up the floor for use to ensure there are enough spaces available in the heart of the town centre. And they say despite the town being even busier than usual over the summer holidays the level has rarely been opened up.

The campaigners are concerned some visitors unable to find a space will take their trade elsewhere - such as the nearby Merry Hill.

Chairman of watchdog group Stourbridge Township Council Margaret Scott said it made no sense for the floor to be closed. "The problem is many of the alternative car parking is outside the town centre," she said.

"These involve a walk into the town and some elderly and disabled people simply cannot do this."

Dudley's cabinet member for transportation, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "Our civil enforcement officers visit the car park each day and open the upper level during busy periods."

Plumbing promise

A STOURBRIDGE plumbing business is to make a donation to Age Concern for every water switch made by a Birmingham company that it installs.

Provan Plumbers, which was started nine months ago by Antony Provan, has just teamed up with Age Concern Stourbridge and Halesowen to raise awareness of the benefits of having the Surestop switch installed.

Mr Provan, who runs his business from his home in Chapelfield Mews, off Worcester Street, said the switch was much easier than using a traditional stop cock.

Mr Provan, who employs two qualified engineers to carry out fitting work, is also meeting Age UK next month to discuss putting the product into its mobility shop at Merry Hill.

Sparkling gift for the royal arrival



One of the workers at Tudor Crystal which is sending a goblet to Prince George

A STUNNING crystal goblet has been produced as a gift for royal baby Prince George at a Stourbridge glass firm.

The special piece, which is engraved with the House of Cambridge Royal crest and the new arrival's name has been unveiled by Tudor Crystal.

And after word spread about the one-off creation, the firm decided to sell limited edition bowls to commemorate the birth of the third in line to the throne.

Tudor Crystal, based at the Dial Glass Works, in Audnam, has a long tradition of sending gifts to the Royal family to celebrate special occasions.



Gift to the future king



William and baby George

The crystal goblet will be sent to Kensington Palace for George Alexander Louis.

Sales manager Keith Smith said: "At Tudor Crystal, whenever there is a Royal occasion, we have engraved a piece of crystal and sent it to the family. We thought it was only right that we did the same for the new Prince."

NEWS

in brief

Top dancer crash tragedy, aged 27

A TALENTED dancer from the Black Country who starred in the West End and performed with Rod Stewart and Cheryl Cole has died in a car crash at the age of 27.

Aaron Morgan was a leading cast member in the Lion King show at London's Lyceum Theatre.

The former High Arcal School pupil, whose family were originally from Coseley but now live in Tipton, was killed when his blue Renault Clio left the road on the A1(M) in Hertfordshire and hit a tree.

Aaron was introduced to the dancefloor by his sister Sarah at the age of seven and attended A Touch of Class in Dudley.

Incomes hope by chief of chamber

THE president of the Black Country Chamber has said that increases in real incomes is the key to recovery in the region.

Speaking after the latest unemployment figures were released Paul Bennett said: "The economy as a whole needs to regain some confidence and this will only be widespread if people start to see increases in real incomes."

In the Black Country, unemployment has shown a decrease from 44,363 in June to 43,671 in July. Mr Bennett said the economy needed greater confidence among the normal working family.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS



ERIC Pickles, the rotund government minister who looks rather like a wheelie bin himself, is calling for builders to include refuse storage areas in new homes.

He says 'unsightly bins left lying around the neighbourhood can damage the visual amenity of an area'. Which, I think, in English means they look a bit of a mess. And he's not wrong.

But what Mr Pickles is less vocal about is the reason why we have these plastic monstrosities forced on us in the first place.

To meet the legally-binding requirements of the EU's 1999 Landfill Directive, central government has spent the last decade setting punitive recycling targets for local councils, to reduce the amount of waste buried underground. They are also taxed £80 for every ton they send to landfill.

Of course, it is no surprise that the councils have seized on it all with a vicious zeal, positively salivating at the prospect of a spot of 'zero tolerance' and 'changing people's attitudes'.

If there is one thing local government loves, it is 'changing people's attitudes'.

But that doesn't alter the fact that the solution to the problem of unsightly wheelie bins lies not with the construction industry, or even with the local council. It would require the British government standing up to Europe, ripping up the silly targets, and invite Brussels to do its worse.

We all know it is about as likely as Eric Pickles winning a slimmer-of-the-year title, but it's a more realistic solution than wagging a finger at the building trade. And it would allow us to keep our plastic bin bags.

□□□□□□ A GROUP of fun-loving bods at University of South Carolina have now declared that for people aged 55 and under, more than four cups of coffee a day could be a passport to an early grave.

Not only that, but another study found that fresh fruit juice is also bad for you, even worse than fizzy pop. And we all know how lethal that stuff is.

At this point, a vast army of earnest young people plotting to change the world in those ghastly corporate coffee houses that are taking over our towns, will be choking on their skinny lattes, so some good has come from this research.

On the other hand, it does make you wonder just what we are supposed to drink these days. No alcohol, naturally, no fizzy pop, no fruit juice and lay off the coffee. That leaves just water, doesn't it?

Whether following this advice would make you live longer, I'm not sure, but it would sure seem like it.

It's enough to drive you to drink.



Beth seen when she worked at Merry Hill



The pop star seen on a beach in Alicante recording her latest video



The cover of Overload which is released next month

Shop girl turned pop star still loves home

ANDREW TURTON meets singer Beth Sherburn who has found chart success but always likes to come back home to Dudley

JETTING off for video shoots in glamorous beach side locations, performing gigs in front of thousands of fans and working alongside the biggest music producers in the industry – all now in a day's work for Dudley's Beth Sherburn.

Life has certainly changed for the talented shopgirl-turned-singing star Beth as she juggles her hectic schedule in the aim for chart success.

But the 22-year-old from Lower Gornal says despite her rapid rise to stardom, she still enjoys being back at home with the family in the Black Country.

Beth is embarking on a busy schedule of promotional appearances ahead of the release of her new single called Overload on September 15.

It is a far cry from her life working as a perfume seller at Debenhams at Merry Hill shopping centre which she gave up at Christmas after being discovered singing by chance by a music producer shopping in store.

"It is amazing and my life is so surreal right now," she said.

"Before Christmas I was just doing a day-to-day job in Debenhams. Now, just to think what has happened, it is totally out of this world."

Beth recently returned from shooting



The singer takes a well-earned break from her whirlwind schedule at home

the video for her new single in the Spanish sunshine resort of Alicante.

It was a tough day for the aspiring pop star as she awoke at 1am and was in hair and make by 2.30am for the all-day shoot.

She had numerous costume changes as her film crew toured the holiday destination to capture the video during the busy day.

They filmed at the beach at sunrise before moving into the town itself and finishing with stylish shots on top of a castle as darkness fell.

perform at shows including Pride Glasgow, an event held in the city to promote gay rights, at which Beth found herself rubbing shoulders with well-established stars such as Heather Small of M People fame.

But Beth has found time to come back home to Lower Gornal and says she still enjoys time spent catching up with family including her parents Sarah and Graeme and younger sister Ellie, 20.

"It was a bit of a whirlwind but it is good to have time back home," she added. "Without the family always being there for me and supporting me, helping me with piano lessons for example which now help me with my writing, I'd not be here today."

Beth's debut album is nearly finished and is ready for release next year after she has worked with the likes of Jud Mahoney and John McLaughlin, who have previously worked with some of the industry's heavyweights including Michael Jackson and Calvin Harris.

Experience

The previous single by Beth, of Kingsley Road, was released in May. It followed on from the previous success of her first song, a cover of Duran Duran's Ordinary World, which reached number nine on the official UK charts.

The dance-pop singer says her songs are based on her own experience – whether it be her friends, relationships or a night out.

Beth says she always carries a dictaphone in her bag to record any surprise inspiration and then uses the piano to work on any song that might result.

Beth had always enjoyed singing and had grown up performing in school musicals and choirs but it wasn't until last December that she got her lucky break.

Producer John McLaughlin was shopping at Debenhams in Merry Hill as perfume seller Beth sang a Christmas classic while working nearby. He immediately offered her a studio slot and days later he signed her to Purple Circle Records.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A TEST pilot was counting his lucky stars after he escaped with barely a scratch when his plane somersaulted during an emergency landing. Darrol Stinton's World War Two plane flipped over in a ploughed field at an air show at Halfpenny Green Airport near Wolverhampton.

WORKERS prepared for the reopening of Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre by fitting £12,000 worth of scenery for the first performance. Backstage staff spent eight days getting fixtures and fittings ready for the opening show of the musical Grease.

A WEDNESBURY police inspector joined his station's keep-fit campaign and ended up in hospital. Chris Denley fell over a curb after dodging traffic on his way to the swimming baths and ripped tendons in his foot.

1993...

WOLVERHAMPTON athlete Phylis Smith blotted her copy-book with the BBC after she gave a plug to her butcher during an interview. She stunned millions by saying hello to Coven butcher Arthur Cackett just minutes after winning a bronze medal at the World Athletics Championships in Stuttgart.

THE Tettenhall Horse Sanctuary in Perton received an unusual request after an accountant asked to be buried next to his best friend. John Mulliner agreed to leave half his estate to the sanctuary providing he could be buried alongside Tina, a 35 stone Tamworth pig.

THOUSANDS of commuters in the region were hit by rail chaos when electric trains had to be taken out of service due to wear and tear on the wheels. Workers were left stranded because there were not enough of the old diesel units left in the area to plug the service gap.

2003...

FASHION giant Gap pulled out of Wolverhampton after trading in the city for just two years. The company announced plans to close its store in Dudley Street due to poor sales figures.

PUPILS at a Wolverhampton school were giving themselves a pat on the back after notching up top grades in their GCSE results. One hundred per cent of students at Wolverhampton Girls' High School achieved five or more A* to C grades.

A STRING of well-known names were lined up to receive honorary fellowships at the University of Wolverhampton annual congregation ceremony. The list included Governor of the Bank of England Mervyn King and former Olympians Hugh Porter and Anita Lonsbrough MBE.

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LETTERS

Football fans grab the headlines again

I SEE it hasn't taken long for the Netherthorpe fans who call themselves football supporters to start grabbing the headlines again, gaining publicity for their behaviour on both front and back pages.

And from that comes a warning from high-profile star Paul Ince, who is concerned for the safety of those who just want to go along and pay over-the-top prices to watch their team play, hopefully enjoy the game, and then be able to leave the ground and get home in one piece. It's always the same, season after season we read of fights, stabbings, crowd disturbances, drunkenness, beatings, damage to property and pos-

sessions - the list goes on. Then, on top of that, we get the behaviour on the pitch of the players who are supposed to be setting a good example.

What does the future hold for Mr Nice Guy who only wants to take his family out for a few hours of entertainment, and not fear for their safety?

Well, if you are a family who just wants to go out and enjoy a sport with lower costs, in an exciting and friendly atmosphere, why not pop down to Monmore Green on Monday evenings to watch the Wolves speedway team, currently in the running to challenge for the league championship.

On a Tuesday evening at the same

venue you can support Dudley Heathens team of youngsters, who are sitting on top of the national league.

The speedway season is normally over by the end of October and starts again the following spring, so if you have not already done so but were considering popping along, then now could be a good time to do so as we are approaching the business end of the season with the play-offs looming in all leagues. So excitement and value for money, along with safety, are guaranteed. Hope to see you there?

MIKE THOMPSON
Bryan Budd Close
Rowley Regis

A burning issue that will not go

PLEASE on behalf of the residents of Vicarage Road, Amblecote, can I ask the kind person who set the garden fire at around 9.30pm on Wednesday, August 7 to have a bit of thought for people who live nearby.

Myself and my neighbour both came out to see what the awful stench was invading our homes, to be greeted by smoke so thick it was impossible to make out where it was exactly located.

The whole house was full of fumes meaning windows had to be shut, not ideal in the hot nights we have had of late. Does this person not know of Dudley MBC's Green Waste Service? Or the well-publicised waste disposal facilities in Birmingham Street, a few minutes away?

The smell of this garden waste was still around two days later. Seldom does a weekend pass without someone burning something or other around here.

A T PARRY
Amblecote

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle
Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,
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WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
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Spitting scourge is as bad as dog mess

I REGULARLY read letters in the E&S of people complaining about dog owners allowing their pooches to use the pavements as toilets and not cleaning it up.

No-one complains to or about people, mainly youths, spitting anywhere and everywhere, then not cleaning it up. With dog mess it carries into the house onto the carpet, that's if you have not already smelt it. With human spit you don't know that you have trodden in it or carried it into the house.

The human spit carries more contagious diseases than dog mess, yet we do not see notices on lamp posts telling people that they will be prosecuted for such actions. In a morning newspaper there is a photo of an idiot, sorry pop star spitting from his balcony on to his fans. This person should be prosecuted for his actions, but of course, if he can do it, then it is perfectly all right for the young people to do it. Just a note for councils, the notices you are putting on lamp posts about dog fouling. The notices are too high for any dog to read.

NORMAN D CADDICK
Upper Ettingshall Road, Coseley

Complaints on waste changes

HERE we go again! Dudley has revised the system for waste disposal and out came the inevitable complainers who don't like the changes.

Black bags are vulnerable to attack by cats and holes are created by sharp edged objects within them, a situation that is both undesirable and unhygienic.

We live in a world where recycling is a necessity, having read the booklet describing the reasons for the changes and explaining why the waste is separated, I was glad to hear of the useful objects that can be created.

B GARRARD
Stourbridge

Death of Diana

CONCERNING John Perkins' letter of August 5, perhaps Lady Diana was hounded at every turn by the media? But if she, Mr Fayed and their driver had been wearing seatbelts as their bodyguard did then they would probably have survived the crash in the tunnel in Paris.

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NEWS

£50k water sports site revamp joy with grant

MEMBERS of Dudley Water Sports Centre are celebrating following the completion of a five-figure revamp to boost its facilities.

New changing rooms, including provision for people with disabilities, a training room and a sports teaching base have been created at the site.

The centre, based at the Lodge Farm Reservoir in Netherton, was awarded £50,000 to carry out work. The grant came from the National Lottery through its Sport England's Inspired Facilities Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Fund.

To celebrate and to mark a year since the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games, the centre will host an open weekend on September 7 and 8.

Visitors will be able to see how the funding has been invested and what activities are available at the centre.

There will also be water skiing demonstrations and an opportunity to talk to the clubs that already use the facility.

Club chairman Dave Smith said: "Our facilities are now excellent and the improvements are really helping us to attract more people to our club."

by Heather Large

"We really want to thank Sport England and the National Lottery."

Chairman of Sport England Nick Bitel said: "A year on from the Olympics, this National Lottery Investment is helping us deliver a lasting sporting legacy in Dudley."

"With investment now on offer from our Inspired Facilities Fund until 2017, we look forward to supporting many more sports clubs in the West Midlands who play such a vital role in grassroots sport."

The event will also see the launch of a joint Dudley Rowing initiative between Dudley Water Sports Centre and Dudley Council.

The initiative, funded by Dudley's Clinical Commissioning Group, is a two year programme to develop rowing as a sport within schools.

Running up a total



Director of marketing and development at Sunfield School, Sian Williams, youngster Christopher Maxfield, with Rotary Club of Halesowen and Rowley Regis members, representatives from Barclays Bank and pupils

A SPECIAL school near Stourbridge will benefit from this year's Great Black Country Run, organisers have announced. Sunfield School in Clent has been chosen as one of the charities to be supported by the event which takes place in Halesowen on September 22.

There will be a 5k fun run and a 10k road race to appeal to runners of all ages and abilities.

The event is organised by the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club and will benefit a range of good causes, including Midland Air Ambulance, MacMillan Nurses and Birmingham Children's Hospital's cancer unit.

Autism

People taking part can also collect sponsorship for their own chosen charities. Rotarian and event director Alan Bowler said they were pleased to be helping Sunfield, which supports children and young people who have complex needs including autism.

The 10k road race will set off from Somers Square at 9am and there are 500 places available. The fun run starts at 11am and 800 places are up for grabs.

For further information visit www.greatblackcountrysunrun.com

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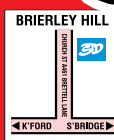
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NEWS

Taste of Bavaria to light up Beacon celebrations



Administrator Jo Emery prepares for the Bavarian evening being held next month at the Beacon Centre for the Blind

A BAVARIAN evening will be staged as part of a charity's 50th anniversary celebrations. Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind has been at its headquarters in Wolverhampton Road East, since 1963.

Bosses have organised a busy programme of events to mark the occasion and raise vital funds. The Bavarian event on September 14 will include music and entertainment from the Halesowen-based Bavarian Shunklers.

Fundraising manager Jenni Fryer said they hoped the event would prove as popular as it has in previous years.

She added: "We've been holding Bavarian evenings for a number of years and they've always been successful. It's one of many events we have organised and we've put together a packed programme of events."

Tickets cost £9.50 for adults and £6.50 for children. The event will take place at the centre and will start at 7.30pm. Each year the Beacon Centre helps people with sight loss to more independent lives.

In June staff hosted a Bhangra night at Taj Palace in Frederick Street, Wolverhampton to raise money for its work. They have also been putting together a fundraising cook-book and appealed for people to contribute recipes ranging from cakes to casseroles.

The book will be available to purchase in the autumn at all of Beacon Centre's charity shops. The centre began life in 1875 as the Wolverhampton Society for the Blind to help people to read by deciphering embossed type. For further details call 01902 880111 or email enquiries@beacon4blind.co.uk

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MEMORY LANE



The letter agreeing the sale of the club's last assets



Villa legend Joe Tate, a Luke's star



Billy Wright - ex-Luke's player?



Baggies legend Joe Smith



The St Luke's team with the 1930-31 Championship shield

Making history at the legendary semi-pro St Luke's football club

THE Black Country lost one of the nation's oldest football clubs when Darlaston Town folded this summer, but back in the 1960s an equally famous team disappeared off the map.

Cradley Heath St Luke's dominated local non-league football in the late 1920s and early 1930s before financial problems led to their sad demise.

Originally formed in 1896 as a Sunday school team at St Luke's Church on Upper High Street, the club attracted crowds of up to 5,000 in their heyday.

Playing at Dudley Wood stadium, they competed in the Birmingham & District League, which was reputed to be the strongest semi-professional league in the country. The Luke's won the championship three times between 1926 and 1932, but the pre-war years ushered in a decline in fortunes both on and off the pitch. Falling attendances coupled with a lack of funding led to the club being wound up in 1948, and despite a short rebirth as Cradley Heath FC, their failure to pay rent owed to Rowley Regis council in 1961 meant the club was no more.

The ignominious end was documented in a letter from chairman JF Belfield, who agreed to sell the

club's goalposts, nets and corner flags to Haden Rangers. Everything went for the princely sum of £7 - including the club's last remaining ball.

Perhaps the greatest legacy of the Luke's can be found in the players that started out at the club and went on to find fame and glory elsewhere.

Scots from top English clubs were a regular sight at non-league games in the Black Country. One such player was Old Hill native Joe Tate, who left the Luke's for Aston Villa in 1925 for a £400 transfer fee.

Tate went on to make 180 appearances for Villa, forming part of the famed half-back trio of Gibson, Talbot and Tate which became known as 'wind, sleet and rain'. He was also capped three times for England and was an ever-present for Villa in the 1930-31 season when Tom 'Pongo' Waring scored the 49 league goals that remain a club record to this day.

One of West Bromwich Albion's all-time greats also cut his teeth in Cradley Heath.

Netherton-born Joe Smith left the Luke's for the Hawthorns in 1910 and was still there in 1926.

The diminutive right-back made 434 first team appearances for Albion. Smith gained two England caps during his career, before returning to Netherton

to work at Lloyds proving house on Primrose Hill. Jack Rowley, who is third behind Denis Law and Sir Bobby Charlton on Manchester United's all-time leading goalscorer list, also played for the Luke's as a 15-year-old in 1935.

But the most famous Luke's 'old boy' may not have actually played for the club at all. Many claim a certain William Ambrose Wright made one appearance for the side as a 15-year-old in 1939, scoring a hat-trick. Although Wolves' greatest ever player is not mentioned on any of the Luke's team sheets from the period, plenty of AN Others are listed.

Luke's historian Trevor Sidaway says: "The story goes that Luke's director George Bridgewater was friends with Major Frank Buckley, who was Wolves manager at the time," he says. "The Luke's were a player short for a game so George asked if he could borrow one of Wolves reserves. The Wolves manager offered up Billy Wright, and told George he was not bad even though he was a bit short to be a professional footballer!"

Cradley Heath St Luke's Football Club 1896-1961 can be ordered for £6 by contacting Trevor Sidaway on 01384 371 91. All proceeds go to the Mary Stevens Hospice.



Inspiration - St Luke's Church on Upper High Street, Cradley Heath

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NEWS

Merry Hill gets into the groove with roller disco



All kinds of characters gather with parents and their children who got on their roller skates for charity at Merry Hill. ADULTS and children got their skates for a roller disco held at the Merry Hill Shopping Centre to raise cash for charity.

Hundreds of people turned out for the event, with many donning a pair of roller skates for the first time in years.

And for some of the younger children it was the first time they had ever skated.

The Eat Central car park at the shopping centre, in Brierley Hill, was transformed into a roller disco for the day. Popular songs were played as the

skaters got into their stride and prizes were also handed out for the best roller dancers.

There were also games and other activities staged for people to put their roller skating skills to the test.

Inoperable

Proceeds from the event, which cost £1 a ticket, will be donated to the Help Harry Help Others Charity, which the centre is supporting this year.

The charity was set up by 11-year-old Harry Moseley. While battling an inoperable brain tumour the youngster wanted to help others after a friend of his also became ill.

After organising 100 of events and raising thousands of pounds Harry's own condition deteriorated. He died on October 8 2011.

Among those enjoying the roller disco was Amanda Jowett, 36, of Tivdale, and her seven-year-old son Jensen.

And it was the first time the youngster had ever donned a pair of skates. His mother said: "I have roller skated before so have a little bit of experience but this is Jensen's first time."

"He has picked it up really well - although I'm concerned my back is going to be killing me after."

"It has been a really fun event and it is for a good cause."

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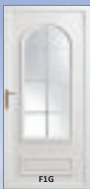
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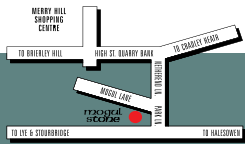
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NEWS

Club in vow to fight back after blaze



Secretary Jake Hanson, right, and batsman, Imran Riaz, survey the damage after the fire at the club's pavilion

DEVASTATED members of Lye Cricket Club vowed to bounce back after their pavilion was ravaged by fire in a suspected arson attack.

And they are vowing that a popular beer festival which was due to start today, will still go ahead.

The latest fire, which broke out during the early hours of Sunday, August 11, was the second time in six years that the club was left picking up the pieces after a severe blaze.

The blaze began in a plastic litter bin outside the front of the pavilion. The flames quickly engulfed the wood-en decking before spreading inside where it wrecked fixtures and fittings.

The pavilion had been built in 2010 with the help of grants and community fundraising to replace one which had been destroyed by fire in August 2007.

Despite the latest setback, the club has pledged not to be beaten and said they would fight to rebuild their pavilion again.

Measures to compensate for the loss of facilities ravaged by the fire have already been arranged ready for the beer festival. Usually a single marquee is set up for the event to provide seating and a bar for visitors.

But this year a second tent will be used to accommodate extra seating and for spectators to watch cricket games taking place as part of the event.

The club has also arranged for temporary toilets to be installed for the

duration of the three-day festival. There were fears the event would have to be postponed but members of the club said they were determined it would go ahead.

Club secretary Jake Hanson, 22, of Pedmore, said: "Arrangements are already being made for the festival and we know what we are going to do."

"We are still dealing with the aftermath of the fire but we wanted to ensure this event would go ahead."

The beer festival will run until Simdau and is run jointly with Sadler's Ales. A clean-up was started at the club following the fire but officials have said it would be a 'long road' to get the club back up fully on its feet.

Mr Hanson said: "It is a matter of picking up the pieces."

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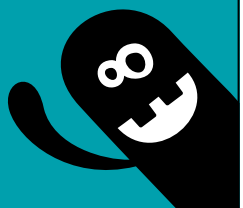
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NEWS

Terrible distress for boy's relatives

A CORONER has spoken of the 'terrible distress' for the grieving relatives of a tragic one-year-old boy, as he ruled the death was due to natural causes.

Alfie Brown, of Halesowen, had been on holiday with his parents and grandparents in Tenerife when tragedy struck.

Pathologist Dr Philip Cox, of Birmingham Women's Hospital, told an inquest at Sandwell Coroners Court that a series of tests had been carried out to try to establish the cause of the youngster's death.

He said he had wondered if Alfie had suffered the bacterial infection whooping cough but subsequently ruled that out.

Dr Cox, who carried out the post mortem, also dismissed any suggestions Alfie could have caught an 'exotic' infection while abroad. He gave cause of death as due to a combination of strains of bronchitis and bronchopneumonia.

"It was quite a nasty chest infection and it appears to have come on very quickly," he said. "We didn't actually manage to find precisely what the organism was that caused this infection."

"I don't think that there was anything particularly exotic about the infection."

Black Country senior coroner Robin Balmain said he was sorry for the young parents' only child, adding: "It is terribly distressing for the family."

Sons of Rest building: Crunch meeting due soon over future

THE CAMPAIGN to reopen a former Sons of Rest building in Halesowen for the community has moved a step closer with a crunch meeting to decide its future scheduled for next week.

A business plan has been lodged by Hasbury Community Association which wants to take over the site. Dudley Council had proposed selling the building, near Alexandra Road and Wall Well, and put it on the market last year.

Work begins on fire station

BUILDING work is under way on the new £4 million community fire station serving Cradley Heath and Halesowen. It will stand on a 1.1 acre site next to Haden Hill leisure centre, facing the Halesowen Road and Barrs Road junction in Cradley Heath.

Works is expected to take around 40 weeks and the building will be fully operational by May. Contractors have cleared the site and have begun putting in foundations for the new station.

It will be replacing the present station, in Mace Street, Cradley Heath. Halesowen's own fire station in Hagley Road shut last year amid protests. One of the two 24-hour fire crews serving the two towns has gone as part of the closure scheme.

Behind the station there will also be a specially designed area where the firefighters can practise skills they need to respond to road traffic collisions, complete with removable street furniture such as bollards and lamp posts.

The main building will also include facilities for use by the community, built-in educational features to help teach visitors about fire and electrical safety, an eco-friendly 'green' roof, complete with power-generating photovoltaic cells and a kitchen, mess room and gym for firefighters.

But residents called for the premises built on land donated to the town in 1947 by the then mayor Lionel Rose to be saved.

More than 200 people signed a petition opposing the planned sale of the building. They are now hoping to take on the responsibility for the building so it can be opened up as a community hub and used by different groups for meetings and activities.

Fundraising events have been taking place to generate funds to refurbish the building.

Councillor Donella Russell, who is heading up the scheme with campaigner Ian Cooper, said the business plan, which was submitted in April, was being reviewed by different departments at the council.

Different

It is due to be discussed by officers when it's hoped a final decision on the building's future will be made. The meeting is on August 28.

"At the moment it does seem like we're in limbo but the business plan has been going through the different stages with the council."

It will be discussed at a meeting when hopefully we will learn whether it has been approved.

"From the feedback we have already had it sounds positive so we are fairly confident that it will all work out," she added.

The campaign group says it has found about 20 groups which would use the site - but at a cheaper rate than they faced before the centre closed.

Jumping for joy over skate park



Keen skaters and BMX riders in Red Hill Park, including Jack Foley, with Rich Levsta and Gavin Pardoe of Unit3Sixty

YOUNG skateboard and BMX riders have welcomed plans for a new indoor skate park in Stourbridge.

Not-for-profit group Unit3Sixty has unveiled proposals for an Urban Recreation Centre at a 22,000 sq ft empty

unit situated in Mill Race Lane. The £175,000 centre would include a World Championship-standard park, plus a DJ school, graffiti art walls, dance academy and cafe. The plan, to be handed to Dudley Council soon for

approval, comes five years after the closure of Ramparts skatepark. Potential users have already welcomed the planned skatepark - which Unit3Sixty hope will be open by the end of this year.

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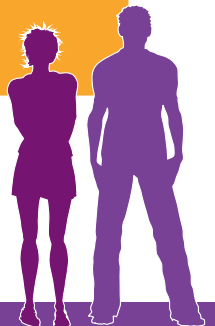
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DUDLEY



NEWS

Asda staff stole goods to sell on auction site

Best of group's art in frame



Black Country Artists members Hazel Stanley, Carol Biddle, Mary Turnley, Robert Downes and Pat Walker launch the exhibition at the Halesowen church

WORKS created by a talented group of artists have gone on display at an annual exhibition at a Halesowen church. Members of the Black Country Artists launched the event which ran at Hurst Green Methodist Church, in Narrow Lane, until Saturday.

All of the work on display has been created by the group over the past year, and the majority of pieces will be available to buy.

Paintings were in a variety of styles, including watercolour, and feature subjects such as landscapes and flowers. Members of the group also create their own crafts which will also be available to buy during the exhibition.

This includes items like greeting cards and bookmarks.

The exhibition is open from 10.30pm until 5pm every day except Saturday when it closes at 4.30pm. Members of the group said the exhibition was an annual tradition and always well-supported by visitors.

Treasurer Eileen Gee said it was great to see work created by the group on display in one place. The group has been running for around 30 years and is very well known in the community.

The group meets on Thursdays at the church from 7.30pm to work on their pieces and discuss different ways of painting.

TWO supermarket workers stole thousands of pounds worth of items from their store – before giving groceries to relatives and selling off items on ebay.

Emma Taylor and Laura Drew admitted to 'skip-scanning' up to £40 worth of products a week from Asda on Saltwells Road, Netherton, Dudley, while employed at the store.

The scheme saw the pair taking bags of products through the supermarket's self-checkout tills, but not swiping every item put past the machine.

Taylor, aged 23, of Pointon Close in Bilston, and Drew, 20, of Haverhill Walk in Colleygate, Halesowen, both pleaded guilty to theft from the store at Dudley Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Complaint

Taylor was accused of stealing £3,629.97 worth of items from June 27, 2011 to June 27, 2013. Drew was accused of stealing £2,727.65 worth of products between November 1, 2012 and June 27, 2013.

Mrs Meloney Hughes, prosecuting, said: "A complaint was made by Asda about thefts over a long period of time. An investigation was launched and the girls were interviewed. They admitted to stealing items by way of using the self-service tills."

In interview, Mrs Hughes said Taylor had agreed to taking between £25 to £30 worth of groceries a week. A stolen DVD player worth £29 was recovered from her house. She said Drew had agreed to taking home up to £60 in groceries a week. Items worth £328.65 were recovered from her house. She also admitted to selling £479 worth of stolen goods on ebay.

But solicitors representing the pair both disputed the total stolen item valuations. Taylor and Drew will be sentenced on September 10.

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CLUB NEWS

President welcomed after illness

BLACK COUNTRY SOCIETY
KINGSWINFORD BRANCH

THE annual general meeting of the branch was held met in St Mary's Church Hall on June 19.

President Stan Hill welcomed everyone, including the president of the main society, Michael Hill, and its chairman, James Morgan.

Stan outlined the origins of the branch, from its early beginnings as Dudley Teachers Archive Study Group, which met at Himley Hall.

Chairman Joan White, in her annual report, welcomed Stan back to the chair after his recent severe illness and said that we wished him well and look forward to seeing him back at our meetings.

We were saddened in February by the death of Mrs Sylvia Cosnett, our treasurer who had taken over from Linda Button in 2011.

She had retired after 30 years but after Sylvia's death she and secretary Alison Jones have collected fees and paid speakers.

The chairman thanked the many people who had helped in so many ways and asked for continued support.

Linda said members would pay £1 per meeting and visitors £1.50. Entertainment followed by The New Dimensional Experience Choir.

The raffle made £68 - proceeds to the society towards cost of speakers. Wine and a superb buffet supper followed.

Lords trip proves a great success



Members of the Soroptimist enjoy lunch in the members' dining room

DURING the president's report in the August business meeting she gave a review of the recent visit to the House of Lords.

We were met and welcomed by Lord Turner of Bilston, then had a tour before members were entertained to a gourmet meal in the members' dining room. We were also joined for a for a short while by Pat McFadden and Paul Uppal, two of Wolverhampton's MPs, and our host Lord Turner. After lunch were invited to view London from the terrace, browse in the shop and take photographs in the marvellous West-

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF WOLVERHAMPTON

minster Hall. President Parkash Krishan had also represented the club at the Civic Sunday service with the mayor, councillors and other invited guests.

Three club projects were discussed and how we may raise awareness of The Footprint's Orphanage combined with Water Aid, The Purple Teardrop Campaign and our local support and partnership with Wolverhampton Food Bank - The Well.

Amusing talk at annual lunch

WEST MIDLANDS
FEDERATION OF
TOWNSWOMEN

THE federation held its annual luncheon at the Mill Hotel, Alveley, on June 29.

After grace by Win Willets an excellent meal followed and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The loyal toast was given by Jean Williams' and Margaret Tew gave a toast to the guilds. Jen Kerrison responded on behalf of the guilds. The speaker for the

afternoon was Marion Canning, one of the few lady Toastmasters, now retired. She gave us an interesting talk about her career and the many amusing things that had happened to her.

A raffle was held and three

members won prizes. The guild's harvest supper will be at Wollaston village hall on October 9. Arts and crafts secretary Jill Attwood has organised a card making Dabble day at Norton Community Association on October 12. The final event of 2013 will be the carol service on December 14 at St Thomas's Church, Market Street, Stourbridge.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE



Alix Abram joins the Academy in September



An Academy student pitches her business idea

Helping teenagers fashion their future

WHEN 16-year-old Alix Abram starts her fashion course in September, she will already have some experience under her belt after graduating from the Kidderminster Junior Fashion Academy in June.

Her four-week course which ran on Saturday mornings gave her a taste of the training the Academy provides in fashion, retail and visual merchandising, including exploring art, textiles and making clothes.

"I heard about the Junior Academy when I applied for my fashion course at an Open Day," said the former Thornes Community College student. "I thought it would be a good way for me to find out more about training for a career in fashion."

"I'd also started designing an outfit for my school prom so wanted to get some advice on how to do it and to be able to make it in the Academy fashion labs."

"I've enjoyed being here - I like the

JUNIOR TO SENIOR LEARNING

space we work in and there's lots of equipment to use. It'll be good to study here full-time; especially as I want to work in dressmaking in the future."

The Academy at Kidderminster is enrolling school leavers and adults now on full and part time courses. Courses can be studied in hospitality and culinary arts, law and legal, games development and interactive media and apps design and programming among others.

Theory

Functional English and Maths courses are also available to those that need to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

Abigail Booth will be returning to the Academy next month to continue her enterprise and entrepreneurship course. The 18-year-old said: "My dad works in business so this is something I got interested in through him."

"I'm enjoying my course because it's not just about business theory. Learn-

ing about enterprise and putting these elements into practice is great. We got to run our own market stall last year which taught me a lot."

"Making money is definitely my thing. I want to get a few years' work experience then eventually see myself running my own business."

ILEX Legal Secretaries student, Dan Hodgson is also looking forward to continuing his course.

"The Academy is the opposite of a school environment," he explained. "You feel like an adult and the learning spaces motivate you into getting on with your work."

"There's lots of career options open to you if you study law. I want to work for a legal firm after my course has finished because I'll have the knowledge and skills to be able to do this."

For further information about courses at the Academy at Kidderminster telephone 0845 155 0101, email Kiddacad@bmetc.ac.uk or visit www.kidderminsteracademy.co.uk



Aspiring legal eagle, Dan Hodgson (right)

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Sat 7 September	10.00am - 1.00pm
Mon 9 - Thu 12 September	12.00noon - 7.00pm
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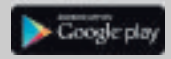
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We are following the rules says lorry driver in wake of gripes by residents

A TIPPER-TRUCK driver has hit back at claims lorries have been clogging up streets around a quarry – insisting workers are following the rules.

Dave Johns, of Bilston, says vehicles do not park up outside Ketley Quarry in Kingswinford waiting for the site to open each morning. It comes after complaints from residents and councillors about lorries parking in Dudley Road, prompting council plans to introduce parking restrictions. But

Mr Johns said the firm followed regulations and denied that drivers were blocking the road.

The 48-year-old said he had been driving the tipper truck for 10 years. He said: "Myself and others have been regular users of this quarry for some time now and at no time have I ever parked on the main carriageway to queue up before 7.30am to gain entrance to the site."

"It is a good site which follows all the regulations and bends over backwards to please the local residents."

"In my opinion the residents who are

making a fuss must have known about the quarry before they bought their homes next door to it."

"It is a long established quarry that serves local business users well."

Unreasonable

He added: "It seems that the residents who happen to live in an area surrounded by factories and industrial estates want it to be noise and dust free."

"But this is an area where lots of people are employed and these are residents who think that because their homes are in the middle of an industrial area they can force

them to close or restrict them to unreasonable working conditions."

Dudley Council is proposing to introduce 'no waiting' areas in Dudley Road and also introduce a seven-ton weight restriction in nearby Ploverdale Crescent.

Ward councillor Patrick Harley had welcomed the plans, saying residents had complained about lorries parking outside the quarry and that it has caused a problem for people living nearby.

He said the proposals were about 'striking a balance' between the impact on residents and allowing the business to prosper.

Group spirit saved life of petrol victim

POLICE have praised neighbours who came together to try to save a woman set on fire by her ex-partner.

The comments came after Damion Sheldon was found guilty of attempting to murder Louise Pilkington at her Rowley Regis home.

Detective Constable Andy Barnsley, who investigated after the December incident, thanked 'everyone who pulled together in the face of adversity'. He added: "It is thanks to the woman's quick thinking, actions of neighbours and the emergency services that this was prevented from becoming a tragedy."

During the week-long trial, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Sheldon, aged 42, of Russells Hall Road in Dudley, had gone to Miss Pilkington's home on Haden Walk in the early hours of December 2. He had poured petrol through her letterbox and he poured petrol on her before setting her alight. Sheldon will be sentenced in September.



Louise Pilkington

MP's lead role to be put in picture



Dudley MP Ian Austin hits a tune on a cardboard guitar and amp as artists Kim Ross, 20, and Sam Paskin, 15, watch

AN EMPTY shop in a Dudley shopping centre has been turned into a mini-art gallery as part of a wider scheme to boost the town centre.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin and artist Geoff Tristram visited the youth-led project at Unit 4 in Birdcage Walk in Churchill Shopping Centre.

The display was made by nearly 40 teenagers and is aimed at encouraging young people to stay off drugs and cigarettes and practice safe sex. It includes animation and drama on films, photography and music.

The scheme was run by Dudley Kick Ash in partnership with Dudley Council's youth service. It is funded by the Office of Public Health Dudley Council.

Kim Fuller, an arts developer for company Creative Health, was called into to assist the teenagers. She said: "The young people have done fantastically well."

Across the town centre paintings, murals and sculptures have all gone on show to brighten up windows in closed shops. Mr Austin said: "I'm really pleased that the project is giving community artists a chance to show off their work in the town centre, and I hope that more local people will get involved as the project continues."

It comes as Dudley Council works on a number of projects to redevelop the town centre including a £6million revamp of the market place, while the former fire station will be converted into a bistro and bar.

New characters set to start at museum

A HOST of new characters – including a doctor, an undertaker, chimney sweep and flower seller – are about to be unveiled at the Black Country Living Museum.

Fifteen new characters to inhabit the streets of the museum's village will be launched in the autumn.

They will step out into the world for a rehearsal tomorrow. And visitors and school groups will be able to catch more regular sightings of them from September.

The new characters, which will each have their own tale to tell of life in the 1900s, have been invited to fit in with the 2014 national curriculum for schools.

They will depict real lives and real stories, forming the backbone of a Key Stage 2 learning experience, encouraging children to relate to people from the past.

Among the raft of new characters will be a pieman, a canal boatman, a widower, and a 'pit bonk' wench.



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NEWS

In brief

Ex-phone worker died following fall

A RETIRED telephone engineer from Wombourne died from head injuries following a fall, an inquest heard.

Frances Claypole woke up to find her husband Alan, aged 83, on their bedroom floor in Kirkstone Crescent on January 3. First responder Richard Crossfield examined Mr Claypole but found nothing wrong and left, advising Mrs Claypole to call 999 if he got worse.

In the afternoon, Mr Claypole, who took medication for a blood-thinning condition, suffered a headache, took two paracetamol and fell asleep. Later in the evening he was taken to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley where he died.

At an inquest at Dudley Coroners' Court, senior coroner Robin Balmain said a pathologist report showed Mr Claypole had died as a result of an acute haemorrhage, head injury and the fall. He concluded Mr Claypole died accidentally.

Area among the most affordable to rent in UK

DUDLEY is among the most affordable places to rent houses in the UK. New research shows that the North-South divide on house prices is widening, with just one in 10 homes affordable to first time buyers.

The most affordable places to rent houses are Middlesbrough, Dudley and Wolverhampton, with as many as 99 per cent of properties within the budgets of local people, it was found.

Vandals scrawl 'who cares?' on canal educational artwork in graffiti attack

VANDALS have targeted an educational artwork put up by a charity along a canal network in the Black Country – scrawling 'who cares' across one sign.

The attack on the metal notice on the Dudley Canal in Netherton is the latest graffiti-based problem faced by the Dudley Canal Trust.

The artwork, which explains that the Titanic anchor was built at Hingley's Works in Netherton, is one of 20 put up two years ago by the trust along the canal. But 'all but a few' have now been vandalised, according to general manager June Hodgetts. It results in a growing task for a clean-up team of volunteers.

Volunteer members of Green Team Dudley, who have a partnership with the Dudley Canal Trust, offered their support to clear the latest graffiti. The group, all adults with learning disabilities, cleaned and repainted the sculpture celebrating Hingley's who ran a world-renowned anchor making in Netherton.

June Hodgetts said: "The Dudley canal network is a much-loved recreational facility in the town, steeped in the history of the area's industrial past. Our thanks go out to the Green

by Heather Large

Team, who already work hard to ensure the waterway routes are litter free and neat and tidy, for their help in restoring this vandalised sculpture. Their hard work and dedication demonstrates the spirit of Dudley people who have great pride in their town." The Green Team Dudley, run by support workers Wendy Bourne, Jane Mott and Neil Whitehouse, benefits its clients by involving them in healthy lifestyle activities and providing a valuable social circle for those accessing the service.

Both groups' work is being showcased with free boat trips. Organised by the Dudley Canal Trust and Groundwork West Midlands, trips last an hour each and run between 11am and 4pm. Call 0121 530 5525.

Council top brass aim to make big hit for cause



Mayor, Councillor Alan Finch, with John Polychronakis, chief executive of Dudley Council, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, organiser and Andy Webb, head of sport

COUNCIL officers and councillors are taking to football and cricket pitches to test their mettle and raise money for good causes.

Two sporting events have been organised in aid of the Mayor of Dudley's chosen charities. A six-a-side tournament took place at Redhill School in Stourbridge raising £800 for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and White House Cancer Support in Dudley.

Next Thursday at Stourbridge Cricket Club, councillors will again take on staff in a 20-over-a-side match. Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch said: "It will be a great night of entertainment and, hopefully, we can raise some much-needed money for two very worthwhile causes."

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Mike has over 30 years experience in the DIY and garden trade, including managing Texas Homecare and Sankey Homecenters stores but it was his dream to own his own hardware business, which he has now achieved.



The staff pride themselves on customer service, providing the same courteous attention to the customer buying a single screw as to those splashing out on a whole new garden.

So if you want a traditional local shop look no further call into Hurst Green Home & Garden, 99 Narrow Lane, Hurst Green, B62 9PF or call Mike, Paul, Morgan or Max on 0121 422 5586



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NEWS



Aftermath – a police officer surveys the wreckage of the councillor's car

Councillor in miracle escape after crash on journey home

A COUNCILLOR from Dudley has hailed his family's 'miracle' escape after they survived a horror crash in which their car was flipped over two times.

Derrick Hemingsley had been driving back from Prestatyn in North Wales when his Toyota Avensis was in collision with an oncoming car.

His car rolled over twice before landing on its side. But Councillor Hemingsley, his wife Catherine, aged 49, son Daniel, 11, mother Eileen Potts, 82, and aunt Phyllis Attwood, 96, escaped with broken bones, cuts

and bruises. They had been for a weekend break at Haven holiday camp and had been returning to their homes in Kingswinford when the crash happened on the A5 in West Felton, near Oswestry, on Monday.

Airlifted

Councillor Hemingsley, 52, who represents Wordsley on Dudley Council, was able to kick open the door and get out of the vehicle before fire and ambulance crews arrived.

Firefighters then cut the roof off the car to free his family. His mother had been flung from the back seat to the front of the car and suffered broken ribs and a broken collar bone. She was airlifted to hospital for treatment.

His wife had a concussion and whiplash and his aunt suffered cuts and bruises, while his son, who had been asleep when the crash happened, injured his foot from broken glass from the windscreen. The couple in the Chevrolet were not believed to have been injured.

Councillor Hemingsley, who was also just left with cuts and bruises, said today: "It's a miracle that we are all here to tell the tale. The police told me that if the car had hit us just six inches higher, it could have been fatal."

The family had been away for four days at Haven holiday camp in Prestatyn. Councillor Hemingsley, of Penzer Street, Kingswinford, runs his own caravan business.



Councillor Derrick Hemingsley, 52, with his wife, Cath, 49, and son, Daniel, 11

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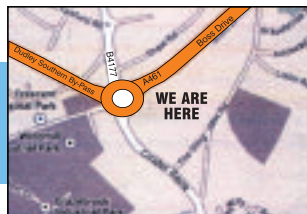
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Specialist Electricals firm plans expansion

A FIRM in the Black Country specialising in supplying electrical earthing materials and components for electricity sub-stations is taking on four extra full-time staff after it announced plans to expand.

Alcomet, based at Gibbons Industrial Park in Dudley Road, Kingswinford, is also recruiting two apprentices.

Managing director Gary James, who founded the business in 1998, said it had invested £100,000 this year to improve and extend the premises ready for the new recruits.

The extension has added office space to enable it to increase its sales and marketing department fourfold by next year.

A new boardroom has also been added which can also be used as a training room.

The firm currently has annual turnover of £4.5 million to £5m and Mr James said the target was to increase that by 25 per cent in the next 12 months.

Mr James explained that a further stage of recruitment was likely to be needed after the new wave of staff is taken on.

"We place high importance on training all new recruits and are also taking advantage of the government incentives to take on apprentices to recruit two this year," he added.

The new extension has also given the company additional warehousing space and further storage facilities to accommodate a new range of products. There are also other products in the development stage.

Strategy

The firm says it is seeing a growth in its operations as it has diversified into previously untapped market sectors and is winning 'high value' orders from the aviation, rail, oil, gas and water and sewage industries. In 2009 the company was honoured with a Queen's Award for Innovation for its Guardian security products range. The anti-metal theft range was developed specifically for electricity sub-stations.

"Every business owner, has to work that much harder to survive in today's punitive financial climate."

"With the phenomenal success we have already had with the Guardian, and metal theft spiralling out of control, as commodity prices continue to fluctuate, we knew there must be opportunities in the market place for its adoption."

"It was just a case of deploying our marketing strategy to a wider vertical market sector."

"With the additional operating space we have, highly motivated team members and huge market potential at home and abroad, it's time to galvanise our growth strategy."

"We are very confident about the future," added Mr James.



Alcomet's Gary James is seen with some of the products supplied by the company

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COMPETITION

By George! Chance to bag a new wardrobe

REVAMP your wardrobe with George at Asda. The Brierley Hill store has teamed up with The Dudley Chronicle to reward five readers with a fashion makeover for the autumn/winter season.

Each of the winners will be treated to a brand new wardrobe in the store's recently refurbished, new-look George department. The winner will be given £100 worth of George gift cards and four runners-up will each receive £50 to spend in-store on a selection of outfits for the new season.

Asda Brierley Hill recently revamped its George department with the launch of the brand new George 21 range, providing customers with even more choice and offering good quality, stylish clothing. At great value for money, shoppers can update their wardrobe for a lot less, whilst getting bags for their money, meaning they have an outfit for every occasion.

School

The department also provides a great selection of "Back to School" essentials including clothing, bags, rucksacks, lunchboxes and stationary at great low prices, meaning mums can get their little ones ready for the new school year without breaking the bank.

George is synonymous with quality and value, so much so that Asda offers a 100 day satisfaction guarantee on all George clothing – or your money back.

Asda Brierley Hill opens from 8am every Monday and is open until 8pm Monday to Wednesday and 9pm on Thursday and Friday, allowing customers to browse the large George department in the evening. Customers can shop until 9pm on Saturdays and from 10am - 4pm on Sundays.

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HOW TO ENTER

So, to be in with a chance of winning one of our five fabulous prizes, simply answer the following question:

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Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to ASDA Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, August 29. No cash alternative. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Entrants must be 18 or over.



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What's On! Halesowen

THEATRE REVIEW

All's Well That Ends Well,
Royal Shakespeare
Theatre, Stratford

ONE of Shakespeare's less often staged plays gets a marvellous modern dress makeover in Nancy Meckler's vibrant, laugh-out-loud funny production.

It tells of the determined Helena's bid to wed young nobleman Bertram, though he is equally determined to stay single, even if that means going off to war with his boastful buddy Parolles, who secretly wants to be more than just a friend.

Apart from the title, this is a less quotable Shakespeare work but there are several compelling meditations on the human condition. There is a feminist theme in which the women are united by their disappointment in feckless men, from Charlotte Cornwall's dignified countess despairing at her son Bertram to the irresistible Diana - a sparkling performance by Natalie Klammer - who wins him back for Joanna Horton's scheming Helena.

Jonathan Slinger is more than a comic turn as Parolles, making the buffoon a poignant wretch once exposed as a coward. Alex Waldmann's Bertram grows from brat to seasoned soldier in desert combat gear. The only derisive note in this production is an 'express war through the medium of dance' scene that could be ditched to trim the three-hour running time, which otherwise flies by.

All's Well continues in repertoire at Stratford until September 26.

Leon Burakowski

Career goes back to musical roots for a 1970s superstar

STARSKY & Hutch star Paul Michael Glaser, who was Ford Gran Torino-driving cop David Starsky opposite David Soul's Kenneth 'Hutch' Hutchinson in 1970s prime time TV, returns to the roots of his career to star in musical Fiddler On The Roof when it comes on tour to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from October 15 to 19.

The 70-year-old American got an early break playing young Perchick in the 1971 movie Fiddler On The Roof, after proving his acting credentials in Broadway productions.

He will be playing Tevye the milkman, a role made famous by Zero Mostel on Broadway and by Chaim Topol in the hit movie about a Jewish community in Tzarist Russia.

Strictly

The new production is being directed by Craig Revel Horwood, of the waspish Strictly Come Dancing judgements.

"We've chatted on the phone and he sounds a lovely guy," says Paul.

"I'm looking forward to working with a cast of actor-musicians. Craig has found a means of doing the show that way.

"For one thing, it has an amazing score. For another, it's a universal story which everyone can understand.

"It's about the everyday problems which we all have and how we manage to deal with them, how we achieve a certain sense of well-being. But it also means a great deal to Jewish people in particular.

"It's a tale told by Tevye the milkman, a story that reflects Jewish history in a very poignant way, in particular about the Jewish diaspora, the



Paul Michael Glaser bearded ready for his role in Fiddler On The Roof

scattering of the Jews around the world.

"But it also celebrates the spirit of mankind and the desire to identify with one particular group.

"Tevye is a gigantic part and at this stage, a couple of months before we start rehearsals, I'm really enjoying getting into training to play the role... it's also given me an excuse to grow a beard."

Valley getting ready for its rock festival

SANDWELL Valley is set to rock this August bank holiday weekend at fundraising music festival Judgestock.

Headline acts confirmed for the festival include boy band Blue, R&B sensation Lemar, Black Country-Brum indie outfit The Twang, London's Alabama 3, legendary rockers The Quireboys and Staffordshire's long-haired rising rock star Mitchel Emms, who appeared The Voice.

Over 100 acts will play across the three-day event. In addition to the headliners, tribute acts will be paying homage to the Kings of Leon, Lady Gaga, Pearl Jam, Foo Fighters, The Beatles, Madness and UB40. There will also be a showcase for local bands and young people from Conegre Arts in Tipton.

Tickets for the event are on sale priced at £12 per day for adults or £30 for the three days, £6 per day or £15 for the three days event for children (5 to 16 years) with under 5s free when accompanied by a paying adult. There are booking fees. Tickets can be purchased via www.ticketmaster.co.uk website.



A decade on from Fame Academy, Lemar is an R&B star

GIG REVIEW

The B-52s, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KOOKY and kitsch with a retro sound and look that's back in fashion for at least the third time, America's finest purveyors of deviant party pop gave a short but sweet 75-minute set in their first visit to Brum in five years.

Opening with Planet Claire, shuffle beat contrasting with Kate Pierson's sci-fi B-movie wail, new wave veterans were transported back to 1979 when the B-52s emerged from Athens, Georgia, to add a splash of colour to the austere British post-punk scene.

Fred Schneider, in sparkling shirt and rainbow trousers, declaimed his half-talked lyrics in his distinctive New Jersey drawl and generally acted like Sheldon Cooper's camp uncle. Ver-million-haired Pierson and the blonde, black leather-jacketed, bongo-playing Cindy Wilson shared the band's trademark vocal sound, combining for a twin-holler attack that is still exhilarating after 35 years and 20 million album sales. But the 1960s dancing is now mostly reduced to arm movements.

The main set came to a satisfying conclusion with timeless good time pop number Love Shack. The B-52s returned to tease us with Party Out Of Bounds before the inevitable Rock Lobster, the wacky surf punk classic on which, as it turns out, Cindy Wilson can still do a pretty impressive dolphin impression.

Leon Burakowski

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What's On!

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SATURDAY'S TV 24.08.13

CHOICE



Matthew Rhys

The Americans

ITV, 9.55pm
You've got to hand it to Philip and Elizabeth – despite growing up under the harsh Soviet regime of the 1950s and 1960s, they've managed to blend into US life seamlessly. Despite this, their marriage isn't a happy one, with little wonder; it can't be easy maintaining a double life. But their professional relationship has been successful – until now. The FBI now know about the bug the Jennings planted in Weinberger's office, and they're determined to unmask the spies sooner rather than later. As a result, they've set up a trap to snare them.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 Football Focus. 12.00 BBC News: Regional News. Weather. 12.10 Live Formula 1: The Belgian Grand Prix – Qualifying. 2.15 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. 5.15 BBC News: Regional News. Weather. 5.35 Pointless Celebrities.

6.25 That Puppet Game Show. With comedian Jack Dee and The One Show's Alex Jones.
7.05 I Love My Country. Tinchy Striders, Rita Simons, Chris Packham, Rachel Riley, Alex Jones and Peter Shilton demonstrate their knowledge of all things British. Game show, hosted by Gabby Logan.

7.50 The National Lottery: Break the Safe. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs compete in several quiz rounds, with the winners playing for the money in the safe. Includes the National Lottery results.

8.40 Casualty. Ash impresses Lily when he dives into the sea to save a teenager in distress, while Fletch and Rita treat a young man claiming to be the reincarnation of an elderly woman's brother.

9.30 Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow. With John Bishop, Justin Moorhouse, Miles Jupp and Terry Alderton. (R)

10.00 BBC News: Weather. 10.20 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Fulham v Arsenal; National Lottery Update.

11.45 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.00 Weatherview. 1.05 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.30 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Practice One. (R) 8.10 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Practice Two. (R) 9.55 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Practice Three. 11.05 Coast. 11.30 The A-Z of TV Cooking. 12.15 Caribbean Food Made Easy. (R) 12.45 University Challenge. (R) 1.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.00 Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) 3.00 Wild China. (R) 4.00 Urban Jungle. 4.30 Final Score. 5.30 Flop It!

6.00 Dragons' Den. (R)
7.00 Proms Extra 2013. Including a review of Nigel Kennedy's performance of Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

7.40 Dad's Army. The platoon competes for the honour of guarding Winston Churchill. (R)

8.10 Thatcher – The Downing Street Years. Margaret Thatcher's second term in office. (R)

9.10 America's Stoned Kids. The impact Colorado's legalisation of marijuana may have on the rest of the US.

10.10 IQ XL. With Ross Noble, Dara O Briain and Jeremy Clarkson. (R)

10.55 TOTP2: Summertime Special. Featuring the Undertones, Fun Boy Three, Bryan Adams, Girls Aloud and ELO. (R)

11.55 Film: My Year Without Sex. (2009) A woman recovering from an aneurysm is advised to give up sex, which proves difficult advice for her and her husband to follow. Comedy drama, starring Sacha Horler and Matt Day.

1.25 Film: Homicide. (1991) Crime thriller, starring Joe Mantegna. 3.00 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.15 Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.25 Poppy Cat. (R) 6.40 Poppy Cat. (R) 6.50 Animals. (R) 7.00 Bookaboo. (R) 7.15 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.30 The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes! 7.55 Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil. 8.10 Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil. 8.25 CITV News. 8.30 Dinner Date. (R) 9.25 Saturday Cookbook. (R) 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 Saturday Farm. 12.20 TV News: Weather. 12.25 The Chase. (R) 1.25 Film: Problem Child. (1990) 3.00 You've Been Framed! (R) 3.30 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.30 Regional Programme: Weather. 5.45 ITV News: Weather.

6.00 You've Been Framed! Featuring a dog with a lightsaber. (R)

6.30 You've Been Framed! Comical clips, featuring a quad bike with a mind of its own. (R)

7.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince. (2009) The wizard must uncover the secrets of Lord Voldemort's past to try to end the evil sorcerer's reign of terror. Fantasy adventure sequel, with Daniel Radcliffe and Michael Gambon.

9.55 The Americans. Philip and Elizabeth devise an exit strategy before meeting The Colonel and begin to suspect that could be a set-up, while the KGB aborts an important mission. Last in the series.

10.50 TV News: Weather. 11.05 Film: American Dreamz. (2006) Satirical comedy, starring Hugh Grant.

1.00 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 3.40 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 British F3. 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.55 The Simpsons. (R) 12.25 Jamie Dees Athens. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.15 Come Dine with Me. Chris Sheppard hosts the final dinner party in Worcestershire. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News. 7.00 Film: Mission: Impossible 2. (2000) A secret agent battles a former spy-turned-criminal mastermind intent on stealing a deadly man-made virus. John Woo's action thriller sequel, starring Tom Cruise and Dougray Scott.

9.20 Film: The A-Team. (2010) Four soldiers jailed for a crime they did not commit escape from prison and track down the culprit. Action adventure based on the TV series, with Liam Neeson and Bradley Cooper.

11.35 Tim Minchin and the Heritage Orchestra Live at the Royal Albert Hall. The Olivier Award-winning composer and performer is joined by the 55-piece Heritage Orchestra, led by Jules Buckley, for a concert mixing music and comedy at the Royal Albert Hall.

1.05 Film: MacGruber. (2010) 2.35 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.45 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.40 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers: Megaforce. 10.35 Superterra. 11.00 Inside Hollywood. 11.05 Celebrity Big Brother: The Big Twist – Live. (R) 12.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.30 Film: Columbus Likes the Nightlife. (2003) 3.50 Film: Patton. (1970) Second World War biopic, starring George C. Scott. 6.55 5 News Weekend. 7.00 Cricket: The Ashes. England v Australia. Mark Nicholas presents action from day four of the Fifth Test at the Oval, as the final match of the series continued.

8.00 NCIS. A marine dies while saving the life of a foreign defence secretary, and the team is asked to protect the politician's daughter while she studies in America. (R)

9.00 NCIS. A marine's teeth and fingerprints are found in a pickpocket's stolen purse, but the team discovers the real target may have been his ex-girlfriend, a skilled player of computer games. (R)

9.55 5 News Weekend. 10.00 Celebrity Big Brother. A chance to catch up with all the action from the star-studded compound, as the celebrities continue to cope with the challenges of living under constant surveillance.

11.00 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. New series. Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour.

12.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarn. (R) 5.10 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarn. (R) 5.30 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Greg & Jen @ Reading 8.00 Foals @ Reading 9.00 Chase & Status & Jake Bugg @ Reading 10.30 Russell Howard's Good News 11.00 Family Guy 11.50 American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Precision: The Measure of All Things 8.00 Tiger – Spy in the Jungle 9.00 Film: King of Devil's Island (2010) 10.50 Film: Richard Pryor Live in Concert (1979)

3.00 Film: The Mighty Ducks (1992) 5.10 Film: The Scorpion King (2002) 7.00 You've Been Framed! 9.00 The Xtra Factor Rewind 10.00 Film: House of Wax (2005)

ITV3
2.10 Film: From Time to Time (2009) 4.00 Film: Death Becomes Her (1992) 6.05 Murder, She Wrote 7.00 Foyle's War 9.00 Lewis 11.00 Wire in the Blood

ITV4
3.00 Film: Paths of Glory (1957) 4.50 Film: Aces High (1976) 7.00 Black Gold 8.00 World of Sport: Crazy Racing 8.10 Mark Cavendish: Born to Race 10.00 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana 11.00 Film: Passenger 57 (1992)

E4
3.00 The Mindy Project 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Suburgatory 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 8.30 Happy Endings 9.00 Film: Nine Months (1995) 11.05 PhoneShop 11.35 The Inbetweeners

Film4
3.05 The Parent Trap (1961) 5.35 The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) Fantasy adventure, starring Elijah Wood. 9.00 Twilight (2008) Fantasy romance, starring Kristen Stewart. 11.25 Hobo with a Shotgun (2011)

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Denture troubles? Unable to live life spontaneously?

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THERE'S seemingly an impossible amalgamation between glamour and dentures, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are increasingly being thrown together at a ground-breaking Dudley clinic.

Under the watchful eye of dentist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), founder of the Denture Clinic, based in North Street, hi-spec prescriptions are helping turn back the hands of time.

Recently, the practice has undergone a major refurbishment, with three disciples – general dentistry (North Street Dental), implantology (Total Implant Solutions) and the prescribing and manufacturing of dentures (Denture Clinic) all under one roof. Key to a £1m investment are two new ground-floor surgeries, an level main entrance at the rear, disabled-friendly facilities and a large car park with a drop-off point right outside the reception area. A champion for those who wear dentures, Steven has spent more than ten years campaigning to "break the taboo over false teeth." He is evangelical about what new generation dentures can achieve. "Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic



makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients," he said.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting dentures, sunken cheeks and pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks. Can dentures be glamorous? Emphatically, yes.

"We are on the cusp of development, so that those who entrust their smile to us can be sure they will be advised on best options."

Steven's work has attracted people from all walks of life, including a former SAS mountain warfare specialist, an airline pilot, a multi-millionaire with his own jet, health professionals and "ordinary

salt-of-the-earth people from the Black Country." The clinic's prosthetics, hand-crafted at laboratories at the Dudley and Wolverhampton practices, have also found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal. And the secret of his success? A seamless service to clients, where clinical assessment and the crafting of prescriptions are all in-house.

"It's a simple formula," said Steven, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about the quality and we will never compromise on best clinical outcomes."

He admitted that denture wearers are one of the most challenging groups to treat successfully.

"I believe many of them have had a bad deal for years, but we are in the vanguard of changing outcomes and hopefully changing some lives for the better too," said Steven.

Steven draws on more than 30 years' experience in all disciplines of dental technology to produce his hallmark "functional, natural-looking teeth."

Having completed his training as a dental technician and started his own laboratory, Steven enrolled on a three-and-a-half year CDT training course with the George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, to enable him to work in his dental discipline independently of a dentist.

Graduating with honours, Steven undertook a further year's study under the auspices of The Royal College of Surgeons.

Options

Traditional

THE Denture Clinic is renowned for its natural look. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng), says: "Quality, traditional dentures can be hugely effective."

Suction

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Implant retained DENTURES retained by implants offer a guaranteed solution to stability issues. Implant procedures are available at the Denture Clinic Dudley and Wolverhampton premises through Total Implant Solutions.



Steven Burchell
Dip CDT RCS (Eng)
(GDC108353)
with Denture Clinic
manager Peter Brookes
(GDC124429)



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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 25.08.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Brenda Blethyn

Vera

ITV, 8pm

Brenda Blethyn returns for a third series of the hit crime drama. This time, DCI Vera Stanhope and her sidekick, DS Joe Ashworth, are investigating the brutal murder of young physiotherapist Lizzie Faulkner, who was gunned down at a luxury country retreat. It's a tragic tale, but one with a personal aspect for Ashworth because it brings him face to face with ghosts from his past he thought he'd buried long ago. Lizzie's holiday had been a gift from grateful client Corinne Franks, the architect who designed the complex where she was staying.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.35** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** Sunday Morning Live 2013. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: The Belgian Grand Prix. **3.15** Summer's Supermarket Secrets. (R) **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Britain's Big Wildlife Revival.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. John Craven visits Devon and recalls memorable days out featured on the programme, from Ellie Harrison's attempt at winter surfing to Matt Baker's search for deer in the Highlands.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts return to Wightwick Manor near Wolverhampton, where items include drawings by JMW Turner and objects once owned by the last survivor of the Titanic.

9.00 What Remains. New series. A detective is called in when a couple discover a body in the flat above their new home. Murder mystery, starring David Threlfall (Shameless), with Russell Tovey.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Room 101 - Extra Storage. With Clive Anderson, Alex Jones and Jack Whitehall. (R)

11.05 That Puppet Game Show. With comedian Jack Dee and The One Show's Alex Jones. (R)

11.45 Film: A Walk to Remember. (2002) Romantic drama, with Mandy Moore.

1.20 Weatherview. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10** Film: Bachelor Mother. (1939) **7.30** Around the World in 80 Days. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** The Incredible Spice Men. (R) **11.30** Live MotoGP. **1.00** EastEnders. **2.50** Triathlon.

6.00 Flog It! From Southend-on-Sea, Essex. (R)

6.30 Iolo's Great Welsh Parks. New series. Iolo Williams explores four historic estates, beginning with Cardiff's Bute Park.

7.00 The Great British Bake Off. Thirteen contestants battle it out to be named Britain's best amateur baker. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. A publisher proposes a business strategy that goes against magazine industry trends, while three former ad men turn the tables by putting some tough questions to the Dragons.

9.00 The Haiky Bikers: Restoration Road Trip. Si King and Dave Myers work on steam train the Night Owl, forging a steel wheel taller than they are for the biggest locomotive restoration in Britain. Last in the series.

10.00 QI. With Jeremy Clarkson, Jason Manford and Sandi Toksvig.

10.30 James May's Toy Stories: Flight Club. James sets out to break the British record for the longest flight by a toy glider. (R)

11.30 Film: The Hoax. (2006) Fact-based drama, starring Richard Gere, Alfred Molina and Hope Davis.

1.20 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.15** Holby City. (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.40** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Bookaboo. (R) **7.15** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.30** The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes! **7.55** Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil. **8.10** Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.15** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News. Weather. **11.20** Ade in Britain. (R) **12.25** Film: Columbus: Now You See Him. (1976) **2.20** A Touch of Frost. (R) **4.25** Film: Tea with Mussolini. (1999)

6.30 Regional Programme;

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Atomic Kitten's Liz McClarnon, dancing on ice skater Dan Whiston and Boyzone singer Keith Duffy take part in the quiz show, hosted by Ben Shephard. Last in the series.

8.00 Vera. New series. The detective investigates the murder of a young physiotherapist at a luxury country retreat. Crime drama, starring Brenda Blethyn and David Leon.

9.55 ITV News; Weather.

10.10 The People's Medal. Natasha Kaplinsky takes a behind-the-scenes look at the selection process for the royal British Empire Medal - an award for those who have done remarkable things for others. (R)

11.10 Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.05** The Store. **2.10** Motorsport UK. **2.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Ironman 2013. **7.00** FIA GT Series. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** Film: Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home. (1986) **4.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **8.25** Channel 4 News.

6.15 Film: Chalet Girl. (2011) Premiere. A skateboarding champion out of her comfort zone working at a ski resort competes in a prestigious snowboarding contest. Comedy, with Felicity Jones and Ed Westwick.

8.00 Celebrity Deal or No Deal: Gok Wan. The style guru tries to win up to £250,000 for charity, joined by familiar faces including Melanie Sykes, Kim Woodburn and Gabby Roslin, who help to open the mystery boxes.

9.00 Film: The Mechanic. (2011) Premiere. A hitman teaches his murdered mentor's son the tricks of the trade so they can seek vengeance together. Action thriller remake, starring Jason Statham and Ben Foster.

10.50 Film: The Sixth Sense. (1999) A child psychologist takes on the case of a boy terrified by ghostly apparitions. M Night Shyamalan's supernatural thriller, with Bruce Willis, Haley Joel Osment and Toni Collette.

12.50 Catherine Tate: Laughing at the Noughties. (R) **2.40** Nashville. **3.25** Three in a Bed. (R) **4.20** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.15** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.15** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.25** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.40** Chloe's Closet. **6.50** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.00** Bananas in Pajamas. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.25** City of Friends. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.10** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.25** Ben and Holly's Great Adventures. (R) **8.30** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.25** Jelly Jam. **9.45** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.20** Sluggert. **10.40** Inside Hollywood. **10.45** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **11.45** Celebrity BB BOTS: Rylan's Supersized Sunday. **12.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.40** Film: Hitch. (2005) **3.55** Film: Stand By Me. (1986) **5.30** Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket: The Ashes. England v Australia. Mark Chubb presents action from the final day of the Fifth Test at the Oval, as the last match of the series reached its conclusion.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Greg and Tamara enlist Hook's help.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of BB life.

10.00 Film: Erin Brockovich. (2000) Oscar-winning fact-based drama, starring Julia Roberts.

12.35 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. **1.20** SuperCasino. **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hans & Helene. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hans & Helene. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: The Belgian Grand Prix Highlights. **8.00** Hain & the Luminers @ Reading. **9.00** Fall Out Boy & Disclosure @ Reading. **10.00** Family Guy. **10.45** Boom Town. **11.15** Buffy Clynor @ Reading.

BBC Four
7.00 Proms on Four: 20th Century Classics. **9.00** Flamenco: Gypsy Soul. **10.00** Storyville: Richard Pryor - Omit the Logic. **11.20** Film: Richard Pryor Live in Concert (1979)

ITV2
3.50 The Xtra Factor Rewind. **4.50** Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) **7.00** Film: The Wedding Singer (1998) **9.00** Film: Shaun of the Dead (2004) **11.00** Film: The Nutty Professor (1996)

ITV3
5.50 Wycliffe. **4.55** Murder. She Wrote. **5.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot. **8.00** Film: House of Cards (1991)

ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. Coverage of the seventh round of the season from Knockhill. **6.00** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights. **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana. **8.00** River Monsters. **9.00** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978)

E4
3.30 How I Met Your Mother. **5.30** The Mindy Project. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **7.30** New Girl. **8.00** Film: Clueless. (1995) **10.00** The Inbetweeners. **10.30** Don't Trust the B*** in Apartment 23. **11.00** Alan Carr: Chatty Man

Film4
3.10 Home Alone (1990) **5.25** The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **9.00** Avatar (2009) Sci-fi adventure, with Sam Worthington.

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Film Choices

MONDAY

The Bourne Identity, ITV, 9pm

A fishing boat crew plucks a man out of the sea with two bullet wounds in his back and a safe-deposit number sewn into his skin – but absolutely no memory of who he is or how he got there. In the search for his true identity, he is pursued by assassins – but his attempts to escape them suggest his own past is far from straightforward. Thriller, starring Matt Damon. (2002)

TUESDAY

Ties That Bind, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman leaves her peaceful suburban home for New York to settle the affairs of her best friend, who has been murdered. She discovers there may have been more to the killing than the official explanation suggests – and realises her own life is also in danger. Mystery, starring Kristanna Loken and Warren Christie. (2010)

WEDNESDAY

Cabin Pressure, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A businessman is thrilled when his dreams of a fully automated plane come to fruition and he finally embarks on the maiden voyage. But the intervention of a vengeance-hungry former employee throws a spanner in the works, leaving the crew and passengers facing their doom. Disaster movie, starring Craig Sheffer and Rachel Hayward. (2001)



Syriana, Thursday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY

Syriana, ITV, 10.35pm

A web of intertwining stories reveals a deep seam of corruption within the global oil industry, including a CIA agent drawn into arms dealing and assassinations, an energy analyst determined to meet his company's agenda at all costs, and an unemployed oil worker driven into political extremism. Drama, starring an Oscar-winning George Clooney. (2005)

FRIDAY

The Boat That Rocked, ITV, 10.45pm

A host of eclectic DJs entertain 1960s Britain through a pirate radio station, broadcasting from a vessel in the North Sea. However, a high-ranking government official is determined to bring an end to the rogue outfit and the individuals responsible for its continued existence. Richard Curtis's comedy, starring Bill Nighy. (2009)

The 51st State, BBC1, 11.40pm

An American drug dealer decides to retire from a life of crime and plans to raise the necessary funds through one final sale in Liverpool. There he has to contend with crooked cops, a neo-Nazi gang and a hitwoman in the employ of his old boss. Action comedy, starring Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Carlyle, Emily Mortimer, Meat Loaf, Ricky Tomlinson, Sean Pertwee and Rhys Ifans. (2001)

Pick of the Week

Len looks to solve the mystery of his final case

Frank Gallagher is no more, but Channel 4's loss is certainly the Beeb's gain.

The fact that Shameless has now ended its long run means that David Threlfall, the man who breathed life into the patriarchal layabout, is now free to take the lead role in this four-part drama from Tony Basgallop, who also penned the acclaimed Inside Men.

What Remains also gives Threlfall a chance to put Gallagher behind him and show what a versatile actor he is.

"The whole idea of playing somebody very different after having played Frank for so long was a huge boost to my confidence," he claims. "There are, luckily, people out there who think 'Oh he'd be interesting, let's see what he's going to come up with and if it works, great'."

Certainly Detective Inspector Len Harper couldn't be less like the Chatsworth Estate's most notorious resident if he tried.

"He's very quiet," says Threlfall of his latest alter ego. "He's a good man. A quietly moral man is what I would

say, someone who has an empathy with the way we live.

Len's situation is that he lost his wife, about a year prior to the start of the story, from cancer. He's got a brother that's not very well, which gives an opportunity to soliloquise, if you like, to his brother about what he's thinking. It's very different from what I've done previously, which I require really to stave off any moments of boredom."

Len is about to tackle his final case before retirement. It's an investigation into the death of Melissa Young, whose body has been found hidden in the eaves of a flat recently occupied by parents-to-be Michael and Vidya – Melissa was discovered while they were investigating a leak in the roof.

The really weird thing about the case is that nobody had reported her missing; she vanished two years ago without, it seems, anybody noticing.

Harper knows he could round up his investigation in a matter of days, but instead, decides to delve deeper into Melissa's story, and discovers how she was linked to those living in

the building's other flats – often in remarkable ways.

"During the time the piece plays out I think you get to know all the characters that are involved in that particular block of flats, and what their backstories are, which come out very gently. It's a very gentle process," explains Threlfall.

Russell Tovey, Indira Varma and David Bamber are also among the outstanding cast, but it's the Manchester-born actor who holds the entire piece together. He's too modest to admit that; instead, he spends lots of time giving credit to his co-stars.

However, his real praise is reserved for Basgallop and the gripping story he's devised.

"It's a nice reminder that perhaps we should think about the hellskeller way we live these days, now and again," smiles Threlfall.

"I think the thing about the piece is that it is a whodunit but it's got a thriller quality about it. It's been beautifully and rhythmically handled, both in the way it looks and its pace. It's been beautifully written and directed."



David Threlfall stars in What Remains, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Horizon: Dinosaurs – The Hunt for Life BBC2, 9pm

One of the most impressive things about Jurassic Park is how the writer, Michael Crichton, managed to make such an outlandish prospect seem almost believable. After all, no one would ever be able to get actual DNA from dinosaurs ... would they? Hoping to bring Hollywood fantasy to real life is palaeontologist Dr Mary Schweitzer, who actually found soft tissue and red blood cells inside the fossilised bones of a 68-million-year-old tyrannosaurus rex. Not only is her work completely revolutionising the scientific community's understanding of dinosaurs, but she also believes that she may have discovered traces of that crucial building block of life: DNA. It may be 20 years old, but Steven Spielberg's blockbuster movie has never felt closer.

Under the Dome

Channel 5, 10pm

In last week's opening edition, fear and panic spread throughout Chester Mill's population thanks to the appearance of the mysterious dome, and there's more trauma on the way in the latest episode. Police chief Duke Perkins is dead, which leaves Chester's Mill without a natural leader – until councillor Big Jim Fennie steps into the breach. On the surface he appears to be a caring guy – but what nobody realises is that he and his cohort, Reverend Lester Coggins, are stockpiling propane. And when Coggins becomes trapped in a burning building, with no fire brigade inside the dome to help him, Big Jim seems only too keen to leave him to die...

TUESDAY

My Hero: Ben Miller on Tony Hancock BBC1, 10.35pm

It's hard to believe that Tony Hancock was only 44 when he died; he appears so much older than that – maybe the years of alcohol abuse and misery had taken their toll on his face. He's best known now for the TV version of the sitcom Hancock's Half Hour, but his reign at the top of the showbiz tree was a short one. By the mid-1960s, his personal and professional lives had begun to sour, and in 1968 he committed suicide in Australia. Nevertheless, he's regarded as a giant among British comedians, and Ben Miller is a huge fan. In this documentary, he profiles the peaks of his hero's accomplishments, as well as looking at the demons that haunted him.

WEDNESDAY

Martin Luther King and the March on Washington BBC2, 9pm

On August 28, 1963, Dr Martin Luther King Jr delivered one of the most famous and inspiring speeches of the 20th century. But while the words 'I have a dream' may be familiar, just how much do you know about the event at which he was speaking? Well, you'll know a lot more after watching this stirring documentary, which marks the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a mass demonstration for racial equality

and a watershed moment in the history of America's civil rights movement. Narrated by Denzel Washington, director John Akomfrah's film explores the context surrounding the rally, including the behind-the-scenes workers who made the March a reality.

THURSDAY

Poaching Wars with Tom Hardy ITV, 9pm

In the 1930s there were almost five million elephants roaming free in Africa. In the 21st century, there are only around half a million – and rhino have fared no better. The reason these mighty creatures' populations have been decimated is to sate wealthy humans' appetite for horn and ivory. In the latest episode, actor Tom Hardy visits a secret warehouse in Botswana which is storing thousands of elephant tusks before meeting Tshekedi Khama, the country's minister of environment, wildlife and tourism who tells him how his government are waging war against poachers. Tom also travels to Mozambique and Tanzania, but begins to realise he's finding more questions than answers when it comes to tackling the slaughter.



Poaching Wars with Tom Hardy, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

Burgled

Channel 4, 9pm

It's not something we imagine our politicians are bragging about during trips to Brussels, but Britain is the most burgled country in the EU. Every year, 675,000 break-ins are reported to the police, which averages out at one every 47 seconds. Luckily, the nation's police aren't ready to give in and accept that being robbed is just a fact of life in 21st-century Britain. This Cutting Edge special follows officers in Leeds, one of the country's most burgled cities, to find out how they are trying to get the crime figures down. It's not easy, especially given severe cuts to the police force, but armed with state-of-the-art technology and some innovative crime prevention ideas, they are starting to see real results.

FRIDAY

Big School BBC1, 9pm

Writer and star David Walliams described his new classroom comedy as "Gavin & Stacey meets The Remains of the Day," which we're not entirely sure about so far – although there is certainly something charming and old-fashioned about his character's unrequited longing for fellow tutor Miss Postern (Catherine Tate). This week, she's tasked with running the draughts club and suggests teaming up with Mr Church's chess society. He's eager to please, of course, and invites her back to his place for a spot of Strictly and a chat – but he soon lives to regret his attempt at social networking. Meanwhile, a scandal looms when Mr Gunn is spotted in the company of a drug dealer.

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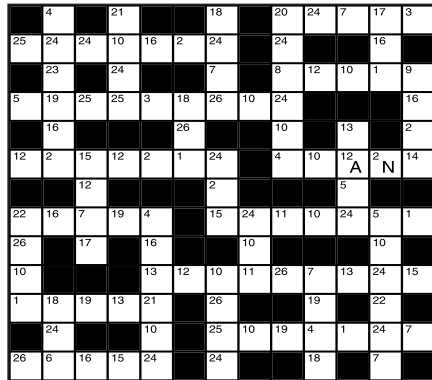
Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.235

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

D	C	N	J	S	L	T	A	X	Z	I	O	U
G	R	E	P	H	Y	Q	V	W	M	B	K	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

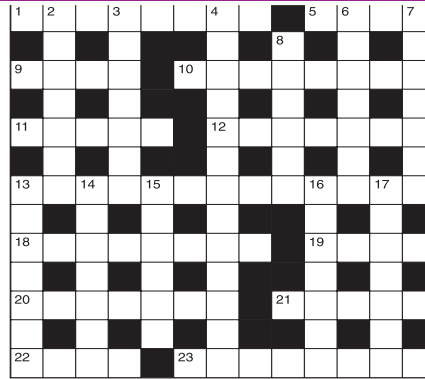
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Way over the mountains, presumably (4-4)
5. Part of the Canibal Islands in Indonesia (4)
9. A slight legato effect (4)
10. Desert transport for moving houses (8)
11. Enumerates the venues for the tournament (5)
12. Calling for a taxi - when it is doing this in the winter? (7)
13. A source of current attraction (7-6)
18. Seen in sackcloth, a riotous libertine (8)
19. The bearing of a man sounds parsimonious (4)
20. Gasp about complete necklace (7)
21. Prohibit nearly everything commonplace (5)
22. Takes the fare (4)
23. Scarcely incline to one in crafty setting (8)

Down

2. Unfortunate disposition of estate showing malice (3-4)
3. Eric gets involved with the non-conformist (7)
4. Historically ill-timed (13)
6. Nights associated with Scheherazade..... (7)
7.showing imaginative perception in visual range (7)
8. The greatest numbers will provide a guiding principle to the first letter (6)
13. Surpass a natural phenomenon (7)
14. Incorporated in a different text, but no longer in being (7)
15. They provide capital adornments (6)
16. Although he's associated with clubs and bars, he's in good physical shape! (7)
17. As a pupil I make a raucous noise, one hears (3-4)



Quick Clues:

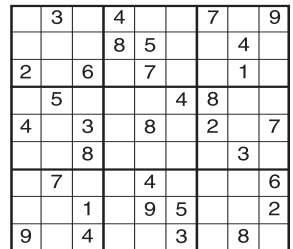
Across

1. Crafty trick (8)
5. Breeding farm (4)
9. Employer (4)
10. Incursion (8)
11. Purloin (5)
12. In the fashion (1,2,4)
13. Thoughtfulness (13)
18. Charm (8)
19. Bird's home (4)
20. View (7)
21. Flaming (5)
22. Ancient Roman garment (4)
23. Protected (8)

Down

2. A stew (7)
3. Raids (7)
4. Regaining health (13)
6. N. African port (7)
7. Dark cell (7)
8. N. American country (6)
13. Cigar (7)
14. Nil (7)
15. Sloping type (6)
16. Stress (7)
17. See (7)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	3	4	5	1	6	7	8	2
1	7	8	2	4	3	9	6	5
5	6	2	8	9	7	1	3	4
7	4	3	6	5	9	8	2	1
8	1	9	7	3	2	5	4	6
6	2	5	1	8	4	3	7	9
4	5	7	9	6	8	2	1	3
3	8	1	4	2	5	6	9	7
2	9	6	3	7	1	4	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Lassie; 4 Cloche; 9 Battle honours; 10 Uniform; 11 Ether; 12 Aglow; 14 Using; 18 Horde; 19 Steep; 21 Water-biscuits; 22 Paying; 23 Aligns. Down: 1 Labour; 2 Sitting pretty; 3 Igloo; 5 Lancets; 6 Caught napping; 7 Ensure; 8 Thumb; 13 Overrun; 15 Show up; 16 Astir; 17 Senses; 20 Excel. QUICK - Across: 1 Remark; 4 Erects; 9 Spring balance; 10 Loiters; 11 Theme; 12 Again; 14 Adept; 18 Refit; 19 Luggage; 21 Plain-speaking; 22 Esteem; 23 Ledger. Down: 1 Result; 2 Marriage feast; 3 Range; 5 Related; 6 Contemplating; 7 Seeker; 8 Abuse; 13 Intense; 15 Triple; 16 Slope; 17 Beggar; 20 Grade.



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Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance.

For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

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Theatre Weekend from £189.⁹⁵

These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

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HALESOWEN, Bromsgrove Road£875 pcm
Located in the desirable area of Romsley. This unfurnished semi detached house features gas central heating, modern and spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, loft space, front & rear gardens, garage, fantastic views. Viewing strongly recommended.



HALESOWEN, Jimara, Feldon Lane£695 pcm
An extended traditional semi-detached house with plenty of space. Comprising a large living room, separate dining room, study, 2 double bedrooms, 1 large single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, kitchen with appliances, separate utility room, downstairs wc, driveway for 3 cars.



SELLY OAK, Corisande Road£650 pcm
A 3 bedroom semi detached house in a popular location with bus links to Birmingham City Centre, close proximity to Birmingham University and QE Hospital. Features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom shower. Walking distance to Selly Oak Park.



HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place£650 pcm
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.



HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£625 pcm
Luxury living in Hayley Green. This luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.



BIRMINGHAM, City Heights£625 pcm
A furnished 2nd floor apartment, in the centre of Birmingham, briefly featuring 2 double bedrooms, through lounge/kitchen, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, parking space, close to snow hill train station and walking distance to the city centre.



BARTLEY GREEN, Hunnington Close£600 pcm
Modern 3 bedroom mid-terrace house in quiet cul-de-sac, close to shops and transport. Large lounge with feature fireplace, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, private rear mature garden, 2 doubles and 1 single bedroom, white bathroom with "P" bath and shower. Garage en bloc.



HALESOWEN, Holt Road£595 pcm
A nicely presented refurbished end terrace home, close to local shops. Featuring 3 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage, unfurnished.



HALESOWEN, Whitefrairs Drive£575 pcm
A furnished mid terrace house, in a popular cul-de-sac, close to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring central heating, 1 reception room, fitted dining kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms with 1 having fitted wardrobes, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, driveway parking.



CRADLEY HEATH, Prince Street£550 pcm
A beautiful semi-detached house close to Cradley Heath. Featuring 3 good size bedrooms, master with en-suite, modern bathroom with shower, modern kitchen, low maintenance garden, double glazing, gas central heating, downstairs WC, off road parking.



CRADLEY HEATH, Mill Road£525 pcm
A nicely presented refurbished end terrace home, close to local shops. Featuring 3 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage, unfurnished.



HALESOWEN, Howley Grange Road£495 pcm
An unfurnished split level flat on a sought after road. Ideal for Howley Grange Primary School and for Birmingham. This property features a utility room, fitted kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Benefits also include gas central heating, garden.



BRIERLEY HILL, Little John Street£475 pcm
Located within walking distance to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill. This unfurnished modern and mews house features 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, spacious living room, bathroom with shower, rear garden, off road parking for 2 cars.



OLDBURY, Arden Grove£475 pcm
1st floor modern apartment occupying the whole of the top floor. Within walking distance of Langley High St, train/bus links and J2 of the M5. This immaculate property features a lounge, recently refitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom. Private garden and driveway parking.



NETHERTON, Round Street£475 pcm
Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi-detached home. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars, unfurnished. Popular residential street close to Netherton High Street.



TIPTON, Anchor Drive £475 pcm
Modern and comfortable living. A 3rd floor apartment within easy access to Dudley, Tipton and the M5. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, modern kitchen, white bathroom suite with shower, spacious lounge with patio doors opening to a Juliet balcony, electric heating, double glazing, garage.



CRADLEY HEATH, Pear Tree Lane£450 pcm
Modern 1st floor apartment. Situated on a popular development within walking distance of Old Hill train station and shops. Featuring 1 large double bedroom and 1 single, gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen with small fridge, bathroom with shower, parking space, rear garden.



WORDSLEY, John Street£450 pcm
Close to local buses to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and a short walk from Ambicote. This 2 double bedroom terraced house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, on road parking and an enclosed rear garden.



TIPTON, Ferguson Drive£450 pcm
A lovely modern 1st floor apartment, which is ideally located for Wednesbury and Dudley. This great apartment features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, 2 allocated parking spaces, communal gardens.



CRADLEY HEATH, Victoria Gardens£395 pcm
A modern top floor apartment, in the centre of Old Hill with local bus stop outside and Old Hill train station close by. This apartment comprises of 1 double bedroom, electric storage heating, double glazing, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, allocated parking.



HALESOWEN, Leasowes Court£395 pcm
A part furnished to suit 1st floor flat within walking distance to Halesowen. Featuring living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include allocated parking, communal gardens, electric heating.

Property



The rear garden has a raised lawn and patio area



The master bedroom has an en suite bathroom

Family home on the market for £149,950

SITUATED in a popular cul-de-sac, this modern three bedroom house is described as ideal for a young family – and is on the market based on offers around £149,950.

The property in Carder Drive, Brierley Hill, benefits from gas central and uPVC double glazing with accommodation briefly comprising of hall, downstairs WC, lounge with dining area, refitted kitchen, three good bedrooms – master en suite – bathroom and integral garage.

Breakfast

On the ground floor the WC has a wall mounted wash hand basin and toilet with the lounge and dining area - 17ft 1in by 10ft 10in - having a living flame gas fire in feature fireplace and French doors to the rear garden.

The refitted kitchen, 11ft 2in by 9ft 2in, has a stainless steel sink with a range of wall and base units, roll top work surfaces, breakfast bar, built in electric oven and grill with four ring electric hob and cooker hood over and plumbing for automatic washing machine and dishwasher.

On the first floor bedroom one has



This three-bedroom detached house is on Carder Drive in Brierley Hill

an en suite with double shower cubicle and pedestal wash hand basin, with two more bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of panel bath, pedestal wash hand basin and WC. There is also an integral garage,

with a driveway to the front with parking for two or three cars and a small lawned foregarden, and to the rear a patio with steps to a lawn. Call Jon Stanier on 01384 77877 for details.

Appliances packages for buyers of Eden properties

MORRIS Homes is helping first-time buyers cut costs and settle quickly into their new home by giving an exclusive moving-in package to the first few buyers that snap up an apartment at its Sedgley development.

The company is committed to reducing moving costs for local first-time buyers.

The first five buyers that purchase a stylish two-bedroom apartment at Morris' Eden Fields site will receive a full set of kitchen appliances including a fridge freezer and washing machine, and an extensive furniture package that includes a TV, sofas, wardrobes, beds and essential appliances such as saucepans and cutlery.

Personalise

Construction has started on the first luxury apartments at the site, and the properties will be ready for buyers to move into from spring 2014.

First-time buyers are being urged to reserve a home now, and by buying off plan they have the chance to personalise their home by choosing elements including the style of their kitchen and the colour of the bathroom tiles.

Buyers can also take advantage of the Government's Help to Buy scheme to climb onto the property ladder at Eden Fields. With the initiative house hunters can purchase an apartment with a five per cent deposit and a further 20 per cent is provided by the Government as an interest free loan, making homeownership at the site an affordable



Construction has begun on the first luxury Eden Fields apartments in Sedgley

option. Cindy Cade, regional sales director at Morris, said: "With so many other things to consider first-time buyers can often overlook the cost of buying furniture and fittings when they move into their new home. We're offering a helping hand with five great moving-in packages to help buyers at Eden Fields cut moving costs and make their new apartment feel like a home straight away. "We're urging buyers to take advantage of the Help to Buy scheme to get onto the property ladder in Sedgley

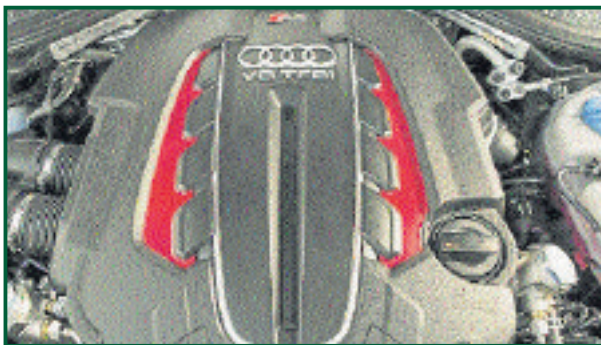
and with a set moving date the move becomes a stress-free process." Morris currently has a selection of two-bedroom apartments on sale at Eden Fields, which start at £130,750 or £104,600 with Help to Buy. For more information on the schemes and properties available at Eden Fields visit the sales office at Charles Hayward Drive, Sedgley, Wolverhampton, WV4 6GB (open Thursday to Monday 10.30am - 5.30pm), call 01902 880938 or visit www.morrishomes.co.uk

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TORQUE. It's funny how a thing so difficult to explain in words to anyone without a degree in advanced mechanical engineering can be defined so emphatically with one push of a car's 'go' pedal.

Suddenly it's crystal clear. Forget the maths; more torque simply makes acceleration faster. In some cases, a lot faster. This seems like a good time for some kind of practical demonstration. We'll need a car, and not just any car. Leave your miles-per-gallon hat at home because, for this, we'll need a big engine.

With turbochargers.

And preferably a loud exhaust for good measure. And so, let me introduce our willing volunteer for today's lesson: the new Audi RS 7.

You might recognise its shell from the love-it-or-loathe-it A7 Sportback, albeit on a light dose of steroids. The RS 7 is pleasantly subtle in its muscularity, adding to the A7's silhouette here and there without going overboard. If the Mercedes CLS 63 AMG looks a bit too brutish for your tastes, chances are you'll like the Audi a lot.

Under the bonnet is, what I can only assume to be, the kind of explosion-making device that Scotland wants to ban. Audi calls it the 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8 from the RS 6 Avant. I call it a weapon of mass destruction (of super-unloaded). It's about 20 horsepower down on the larger, normally-aspirated V10 engine in the old RS 6, but it has more peak torque and – crucially – a lot more wallop lower in the rev range.

Back to the torque demo, and we're on a narrow, winding German back road behind a tractor doing 15mph. The RS 7's 2.1-metre width is just too much to squeeze down the side of the meandering farmer and his trailer of loosely packed hay bales.

Eventually, Herr Farmer swings out to the left and cuts back across into one of his fields (no indicators), leaving an empty road ahead. For a moment it's like I'm wearing an iron boot and there's an electromagnet under the accelerator. I hit the power, hard, and with no perceptible turbo lag from 3,000rpm, several things happen at once. A thunderstorm breaks beneath the boot, unleashing an epic baritone roar through optional sports exhausts. I'm pushed into the figure-hugging leather sports seat so hard that I can feel its shoulder-blade high RS logo pressing into my back. The car is charging at the next corner, incensed, like a rudely awoken grizzly bear, and given the inertia it's carrying, I hit the brakes. With a monumental and truly

awful squeal, the stone-cold carbon ceramic anchors struggle to haul the car up to a safe speed for the corner.

It turns out the optional – and huge – 420mm upgraded discs need a good bit of heat in them to work properly, making the standard steel 'wave' discs a better everyday bet. Fortunately, as the RS 7 and I barrel around the bend and re-deploy enough turbo-charged torque to rip the tarmac to shreds, I find that there's an almost endless reserve of traction.

Power

Audi fits all its RS models with quattro four-wheel drive, and in the 7 it gains a 'sports differential' at the back axle. I watched the moving display model with accompanying video three times and, to be honest, I'm still not quite sure what it does. Because the power is split between four wheels rather than some of its rivals' two though, the RS 7 puts around half the power down through each fat tyre and makes it almost impossible to wheelspin. That's a win for safety as well as granting unbelievable acceleration. Reaching 62mph from rest in 3.9 seconds is incredible for a car that – with two people, fluids and a tank of petrol on board – weighs around 2.2 tonnes. Its top speed is electronically limited, but without the cap the RS 7 would – astonishingly – top 200mph.

It's not perfect. It's inescapably heavy during hard cornering, the centre console looks flat and dated, the Dynamic suspension mode is much too unforgiving, the sat-nav is frequently late with its instructions and the steering lacks any real feel at all.

But within the boundaries of what the RS 7 is designed for, namely to be the RS 6's less practical but more aggressive and sporty GT-esque cousin, it's very impressive.

Bumper to bumper

Audi RS 7 Sportback
Price: from £83,495 on the road.
Engine: 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8 petrol producing 552bhp and 516lb.ft.
Transmission: 8-speed Tiptronic automatic driving all four wheels.
Performance: Top speed 155-189mph (limited, spec-dependent), 0-62mph in 3.9 seconds.
Fuel economy: 28.8mpg.
CO2 rating: 229g/km.

Motoring



Built for the American market, Jaguar have decided to supply a limited number of XKR-S GTs to UK customers

Super Jaguar limited to just 10 vehicles for UK market

JAGUAR is to sell its extreme XKR-S GT in the UK, but will limit supply to just 10 cars.

The 542bhp flagship was unveiled at the New York International Automobile Show, with plans to build 30 cars only for the North American market. Strong interest domestically has led Jaguar to add a small UK allocation.

The XKR-S GT is set apart from other high-performance XK models by its downforce-generating aerodynamics, which can produce 145kg of extra

downward force. This hugely improves high-speed cornering stability.

It springs from 0-62mph in just 3.9 seconds and has to be electronically limited to 186mph thanks to a super-charged 5.0-litre V8 engine capable of backing its huge power output up with monumental torque rated at 502lb.ft.

At the front, massive 398mm disc brakes are gripped by six-piston calipers, while the rears are almost as impressive with their 380mm rotors and four-piston calipers.

The XKR-S GT uses a new develop-

ment of front and rear suspension that includes a wider front track, increased camber, revised bushings, a new steering system and faster steering ratio, all developed based on data gained from Jaguar's F-Type two-seater sports car.

Height-adjustable and bespoke adaptive dampers feature a race-derived twin spring system and increased rates of 68 per cent at the front and 25 per cent at the rear.

Priced at £135,000 on the road, first deliveries to UK customers are planned for October this year.

More charging stations to meet electric car demand



Plug in and fill up – an extra £37 million is to be spent on charging points across a raft of places

Hospitals, stations and streets across the UK will see a wave of new chargepoints for electric cars, thanks to Government funding.

In February the Government announced an extra £37 million to offset the cost of installing infrastructure for recharging electric vehicles.

Business Minister Michael Fallon and Transport Minister Norman Baker announced the winning bids for the first round of this funding.

Money will be made available to dozens of local authorities, NHS trusts and train operators to provide charging points on their property and town and city streets.

Bids are also invited from train operators, local authorities and the wider public sector for the second round of funding. The closing date for bids to be submitted is the October 30.

This announcement comes hot on the heels of an extra £500 million being committed to drive forward the market for ultra low emission vehicles, as part

of the Government's plans for roads reform published in July.

Transport Minister Norman Baker says: "With hundreds of new chargepoints adding to the ever-expanding network of infrastructure, people will be able to recharge their cars at stations, in hospital car parks and on streets all over the country."

"This is brilliant news for those already using these vehicles and will give greater confidence to those who are considering making the switch to electric."

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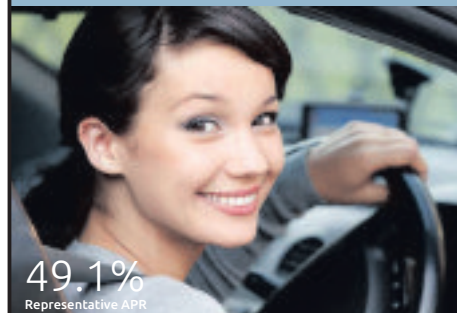
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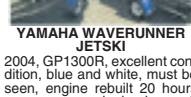
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4 berth. Truma mover. Alarm system. First registered October 2005. Lightweight gas bottles. Ready to go. No pets or smokers.
£6,995.
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WILLERBY GRANADA 35 X12 STATIC CARAVAN
2-bedroom.
Near Welshpool/Newtown.
Cream in colour.
Beautiful condition, including decking, shed, plastic storage bunker and other extras.
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Absolute bargain
£9,900ono.
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weddings

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function rooms

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3

Home & Services

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Pets & Animals

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females x 2, nicely marked, MoM
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0121 520 2758.

COCKERPOO pups Cocker/Toy
Poodle. Family reared, vaccinated,
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GOLDEN RETRIEVER Puppies, KC
reg, reared in loving home,
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both parents excellent hip scores
and can be seen, cream, eight
week old on Aug 30. 01630 661740.

GUINEA PIGS, babies for sale, £15
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JACK RUSSELL PUPPIES, brown and
white, £150 each.
Telephone 07403 302028.

KOI CARP and filter box for sale.
Must be large. Open to sensible
offer, please refer to ad in job bit
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Mollie is a spade, tabby and
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We also have beautiful,
rescued kittens looking for
safe, loving homes away from
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All homes visited.
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670150.

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SIBERIAN HUSKY Puppies, four,
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Farming**

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**6
Property**

accommodation to let

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to charge a fee simply for the regis-
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BURROWS CROFT, BILSTON one
bedroom flat to let, deposit / refer-
ences required, no DHSS, no pets,
professionals only. 07534 409404

DUDLEY Very nice one bedroom flat to
let, DG, CH, shower,
new fitted kitchen.
£110pw inc council tax, gas,
electric and water.

PLEASE call 07803 890908.

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parking, recently refurbished, sorry
no DHSS, £475pcm. 07534 409404

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House, off Codsall Road, £550
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OLDBURY Blackheath/Dudley, 1
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550 0064. 07970 980955.

PENN 3 double bedroom, corner
house, DG, CH, parking, patio at
rear, £500pcm. 07792 210806.

PORTOBELLO 3-bed house, good
condition, CH, deposit req, DSS
considered. 01902 822919.

TWO BED flat, Hallet Drive, Wolver-
hampton, WV3 0NJ, £400pcm.
07779 974453.

TWO BED MAISONETTE, near
Dudley Tesco, full refurb/large
garden, £455pcm, DSS considered
with guarantor. 07956 230621.

TWO BED semi, Bilston, near all
amenities, fully CH, DG, double
conservatory, modern glass porch,
off road parking, large garden,
£600pcm ono. 07450 854426.

TWO BEDROOM high spec apart-
ment in Wolverhampton, available
now, CH, DG, ensuite, no DSS,
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3 BED unfurnished home in WV10,
No DSS, CH, DG, Viewing essen-
tial. £550pcm. 07403 863354

coast & country

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**THREE BEDROOM
COTTAGE**
YSBYTY YSTWYTH
near Devils Bridge, Wales
Partly renovated modernised
country cottage at second fix
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Large rear garden, ample
parking, superb rural views,
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houses for sale

GROUND FLOOR FLAT, 2 bed,
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semi, garage, conservatory, CH,
DG, £169,000. 01902 755124.

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room, fully modernised over last
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throughout.

£139,000 ono
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ton area, £135,000 ono.
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COVEN**

Refurbished to a very high
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On an exclusive site.
Must be seen!
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full time - general
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**8
Motoring**
cars over £1500
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BMW Z3 2.8 1998, FBWWSH, Genuine 38,000 miles, silver, hard top + electric soft top, heated leather, £4,995 ono. 07971 426217

CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 2005, 1000cc, red, full service history, low mileage, tax and Mot, £2,100. 07813 007263.

CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 2005, 1000cc, red, full service history, low mileage, tax and Mot, £1,850. 01952 222265. Evenings.

FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE SPORT, 07 reg, tax, MoT, 22,000 miles, electric blue, £6,500 ono.
Telephone 07511 963459.

FIAT PUNTO Active sport, 1.2, (54), low mileage, taxed and Mot, excellent condition, £2,200 ono.
07758 468253.

FIAT PUNTO Active sport, 1.2, (54), low mileage, taxed and Mot, excellent condition, £2,200 ono.
07758 468253.

FORD FOCUS 1.8TDci, 2008, 99,000 miles, moonstuck silver, air con, fish, £4,500. 01902 340600.

FORD FOCUS CMAX 1.6 Ghia, auto, diesel, 2007, FSH, met grey, tax Sept, MoT March 14, excellent condition, no accidents or smoker, circumstances changed reason for sale. £4,750 ono.
0121 424241. 07765 502671.

FORD FOCUS GEAR ESTATE 2.0TD
06 reg, leather seats, parking sensors, 11 months MoT, 5 months tax, 75,000 miles.
£3,650 ono.
Telephone 07870 770005 or 01902 373227.

FORD FOCUS GHIA 1.6, 55 plate, Tax and MoT till May 2014, 63,000 miles, £2,800 o.n.o. 07984 589800 or 07983 400859.

FORD FOCUS 1.4, 55 plate, Tax and MoT till May 2014, 63,000 miles, £2,800 o.n.o. 07984 589800 or 07983 400859.

FORD FOCUS 1.4, 55 plate, Tax and MoT till May 2014, 63,000 miles, £2,800 o.n.o. 07984 589800 or 07983 400859.

FORD FOCUS 1.4, 55 plate, Tax and MoT till May 2014, 63,000 miles, £2,800 o.n.o. 07984 589800 or 07983 400859.

TOYOTA AVENTIS 2.2 DIESEL
2008, 5dr, grey, 47k, all electric, sat nav, cruise control, climate control, alloys, FSH, tax Sept, MoT April 14, excellent condition. £7,195 ono.
01902 865389 after 4pm.

TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVTi 2003, 94,000 miles, metallic blue, AC, FSH, long MOT, alloys, stereo, CD, petrol, £2,000. 07592 677965

TOYOTA GRANVIA HI-ACE 3.0L TD, 1996, MPV/day van, 103k, tax and MoT, 8 seater/bed, alloys dipped, new tyres, very good condition. 01902 658346.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 54 reg, 70K, 10 months MoT/tax, very good condition, AC, SR, SH, £1,950. 0793 859951 or 01384 351876.

VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 54 plate, 47,000 miles, MoT and tax September, excellent condition, £1,700 ono. 07955 913054.

VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4 convertible, 06, 48k, met grey, tax, MoT, alloys, leather interior, heated seats, excellent. £2,995. 07851 002363.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi SRi, 2007, 68K miles, X pack, Sports Styling, V Eco-nomical met black. Taxed and MoT
£3,500
07930 165419

cars under £1500

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BMW DIESEL 325TDS SE AUTO M reg.
£1,500 ono.
07925 317322.

FORD FIESTA 1.3, new shape, 5-dr, T reg, 88k, nice condition, MoT, 31,05, 14, 2 previous owners, £600. 07850 119634 or 01384 351876.

FORD FOCUS 1.4, 02 reg, five door, blue, tinted windows, MoT/tax October 2013, 84,000 miles, £850 ono. 01902 340532.

FORD FOCUS Ghia, new diesel pump and cambelt, V reg, MoT Apr 14, £450 ono. 07732 872013.

FORD KA, 2002, 64,000 miles, red, MoT, pas, tax, CD, £750.
07756 225674.

FORD KA, 2002, 64,000 miles, red, full MoT, £750 ono.
01902 834831.

HONDA CIVIC T Reg., very good condition, 31k, genuine miles, tax May 2014, MoT May 2014. £1,200 ono. 01902 608443.

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MAZDA MX5 CONVERTIBLE, 1.6L, silver, W reg, Tax'd, MoT'd, good condition, £1,225. 07760 887220.

MAZDA MX5 CONVERTIBLE, 1.6L, silver, W reg, tax'd, MoT'd, good condition, £1,225. 07760 887220.

MG ZS, hatchback, 2003, long MoT and tax, manual, alloy wheels, clean car, £1,350 ono. 07815 424136.

PEUGEOT 206, 1.5, Sdr, 2004, MoT and tax, Air con, mint condition, metallic blue, £1,350 ono.
07966 284902.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2RN, 1999, new MoT, tax, tidy, new battery / tyres, low runner, £525 or £795. 07582627.

RENAULT MEGANE 2001 Coupe, 1.4, dark blue, immaculate car, tax, MoT, 90k, W reg, alloys, CD, rear spoiler, £550 or £495. 07582627.

RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION, 5 door, 1.6 manual, petrol, silver, 11 months MoT, 112,700 miles, 4 months tax, £1,090 ono.
07758 249145.

ROVER METRO, R reg, s/h, 4 door, full MoT, tax, alarm, as new, 30k, £850.
01384 440258 or 07882 413544.

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Firsts fall behind but fight back for victory

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1
Brookhill 212
The George 218

THE First team pulled off a great away win after coming from well behind.

The George didn't have a winner in the first four and were 19 shots down.

The middle four turned the match around with wins by Steve Darling (21-6), Shane Day (21-7), Pete Daventry (21-15) and Phil Clinton (21-18) to put The George 19 shots in front.

Marc Wilson's 21-19 win in the back four ensured The George held on to take the match by six shots.

South Staffs Premier Division
The George 210
M&B Cheslyn Hay 211

The Second team put up a good performance in their home defeat against the current champions.

The George were eight shots behind after the first four. Neil Hopwood (21-18) and Terry Williams (21-19) both winning.

Wins in the middle four by John Deakin (21-13), Chris Lambert (21-16) and Adrian Ford (21-17) saw The George lead by four shots but M&B took the honours in the end by a single point.

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 3
The George 236
Lea Hall 136

The third team had another big home win this time against Lea Hall.

The George led by 53 shots after the first four and went to complete victory by full 100 shot scoreline.

Hennessy's loan starts

KEEPER Wayne Hennessy's month-long loan to Yeovil Town has finally gone through after he overcame an injury worry.

The 26-year-old will be at Yeovil until September 21.

He was set to join the Championship club last week but the deal was put on hold after he tweaked his hamstring while on international duty with Wales. He returned to Molineux for treatment.

Hennessy has not played a senior game since April 2012 because of cruciate ligament problems. After undergoing tests, Hennessy was given the all-clear.

Carl Ikeme is currently first-choice Wolves keeper.

Injury forces Male out of eliminator bout

by Craig Birch

CRADLEY'S Chris Male has pulled out of his British title eliminator with Coventry's Troy James at Dudley's the Venue next month with a calf injury.

The two former challengers to the English crown, at featherweight and super feather respectively, had been due to meet on Saturday, September 14.

But James will still box a 10-round on the bill for a Masters title, having already started his training camp for the bill in anticipation of the contest.

For Male, it's the latest in a catalogue of injuries that have cost

him big fights since turning pro in 2008 with a badly broken hand, torn rotator cuff and now calf problems.

He said: "It's really disappointing I was sparring Steven Pearce and we came out of an exchange and I just landed awkwardly. I couldn't walk for three days."

Freak

"I haven't been able to train for over a week and the physio has said it's a high-level muscle strain. It's just one of those freak injuries. I'm gutted," 30-year-old Male added.

James is equally disappointed it

won't be Male in the other corner, as his chance to get a stop closer to the British title has gone with the opponent.

He said: "My focus has always been on a British title shot. I have been working towards Male, so it's disappointing that that fight is off."

"But all I can do is go out there and pick up a Masters belt."

Two of Male's stable-mates from Shaun Cooper's gym in Brierley Hill still appear on a three-fight under-card which includes trav-

eller Lance Brooks, trained by Dudley's Paul Gough. Steven Pearce boxes for the first time since losing his Midlands welterweight title in a compelling seventh round stoppage to Sam Eggington in May's all-Stour-bridge battle.

Stature

It will be a short trip to the venue for Brierley Hill's Kyle 'the Style' Spencer, 23, a light middleweight growing in stature after six straight wins since turning pro in October 2011.

Brooks returned to boxing after

a three-year break this year and the 26-year-old welterweight will be going for his third victory, having turned pro way back in March 2010.

Tickets are priced at £55 to include a three-course meal. VIP ringside tables of 10 are available at £100 per person to include the meal and complimentary bottles of wine.

British lightweight champion Martin Gethin, and former British welterweight title holder Young Mutley will mingle with guests in the VIP section.

To purchase, call either 07780

Boss full of praise for side's character

KENNY JACKETT has praised Wolves' character after they regained control of the game to see off Bristol City and continue their unbeaten start.

Wolves made it seven points from nine with Saturday's 2-1 win at Ashton Gate to climb to third in League One.

But victory was only possible after they weathered City's storm in the early part of the second period following a thoroughly dominant first half from Wolves.

All the visitors had to show for their dominance was Bakary Sako's 22nd-minute free kick, cancelled out by Jay Emmanuel-Thomas following Richard Stearman's slip, before Matt Doherty's 85th-minute winner.

"Character is a big factor as well as technique, and to come through in a game which could have gone either way is a very good achievement," said Jackett.

"It became a big test of character for our players to make sure we came through it."

Sometimes it's not just about technique, it's about heart as well. If we can play proper football, we can achieve a lot."

Wembley was special to Griffiths

WOLVES striker Leigh Griffiths says his Wembley debut will live with him forever after appearing for Scotland against England.

The 22-year-old gained his third full cap after coming off the bench in the 72nd minute to replace Scotland's man of the match and former Wolves striker Kenny Miller in the Scots' narrow 3-2 defeat.

"It was a very good game to be involved in - it's not often I'm going to play against England in front of 80,000 people and Kenny Miller's goal was superb," said Griffiths.

"Just to get off the bench was superb - it's a fabulous place to play and one I'll not forget. I got a message from Joe Gallen (Wolves assistant head coach) - he just said, 'if you get on, do well and don't get injured' so he'll be happy I've stayed fit and I'll be back in training." Griffiths faced Chelsea's Gary Cahill and Everton's Phil Jagielka.

Blackbird's the Darling of the Heathens' fans

DUDLEY hero Lewis Blackbird has revealed how he's enjoying his racing more than ever.

Blackbird was the last heat hero as the Heathens secured the National Fours Championship at Stoke on Sunday to add to their National Pairs and Shield success.

It's a remarkable turnaround for Blackbird who was with deadly rivals Mildenhall last season who pipped Dudley to the title in controversial circumstances.

There's no doubt he's the new darling of the Heathens crowd - and he's paid tribute to the club management.

He said: "I have never enjoyed my speedway as much as I am this season and long may it continue."

"It's been hard work and I still have goals I want to achieve - but the enjoyment and sense of achievement I am getting being part of such a professional outfit is everything I could ask for from this league."

Professional

"There are so many professional people connected with the club and that runs throughout the team."

"The promotion keep the lid on the pressure and just go about their business calmly and efficiently, and we as riders respond to that because we can just concentrate on our own thing."

"Look at Starkey (Paul Starke). He went unbeaten again at Stoke and is riding out of his skin week after week."

"Ashley (Morris) is having a good season as well, and I think the form

Speedway

of myself and those two is helping drag the others along."

"We still have the league and KO Cup to look forward to and whilst there will be some massive challenges to come over the next couple of months, the prospects for this team is just fantastic."

"I know what it's like to pretty much sweep the board in one season and it's a feeling that you can't explain, but is one massive incentive."

"Sunday was all about the Fours though and we did it as a team, a unit in which everyone did their job. We will enjoy this but then our concentration goes to our next meeting because that's the Dudley way."

Heathens head into a busy spell with a trip to Buxton on Sunday, Kent on Monday before their next home meeting at Wolverhampton on Tuesday with Isle of Wight.



The Victorious Dudley Heathens with their trophy and plaques, from left, manager Will Pottinger, Mark Blackbird, Ashley Morris, Gareth Isherwood and Paul Starke. Photograph from Ian Charles



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SPORT

Male out
Injury keeps boxer
out of eliminator
Page 39

Riding high
Blackbird having
time of his life
Page 39



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Progress is made after two late goals

FA Cup Extra
Preliminary Round
Boldmere St Michaels 0
Tipton Town 2

LATE goals by Mensah Kinch and Ricky Nicholls earned Tipton safe passage into the Preliminary Round of the FA Cup.

Without their captain and vice-captain due to suspension and injury respectively, Tipton gave debuts to Rob Perks and Calum Martin.

It was Tipton who probably had the balance of the chances and play in the first half and a dipping half volley from range by Marvin Nisbett whistled inches over.

On 48 minutes, a powerful Lee Osbourne was parried away and substitute Jason Holmes had a golden chance on 61 minutes when he sprung the offside trap but screwed his shot wide.

Boldmere had one more chance when Ryan Edmunds was allowed to walk into the area but hit his shot high and wide.

But on 83 minutes, the breakthrough came when Ashton played a ball into the Boldmere box, keeper James Beeson was unable to take convincingly and, somehow, Kinch bundled home.

The game was put to bed with a Nicholls penalty when Chris Rabone was brought down after a trademark sprint into the area.

Tipton now face Stratford Town at home next Saturday, August 31.

Nic backed by McAuley

ALBION defender Gareth McAuley says the Baggies must do more to get the best out of star summer signing Nicolas Anelka.

The Frenchman made a low-key debut in Saturday's 1-0 opening-day defeat to Southampton after hitting seven goals in seven pre-season appearances.

But McAuley is adamant the 34-year-old will come good once Steve Clarke's side play to his strengths.

Said Player of the Year McAuley: "We need to get the ball to him a lot better, a lot quicker and in the right areas of the pitch."

Albion head for Everton on Saturday with McAuley insisting they are "hurting".

But the Northern Ireland international is backing Clarke's men to respond.

"To lose to a penalty in the 90th minute when you're not sure it's as clear-cut as the referee thinks is even worse," he said.

Outcast rules out window of opportunity

WOLVES outcast Roger Johnson has turned down the chance to put himself in the shop window as the transfer window enters its final fortnight.

While fellow transfer-listed players Karl Henry and Stephen Ward have left and Jamie O'Hara performed before 40 scouts for Wolves Under-21s, 30-year-old Johnson has decided against taking up the offer of playing in the reserves to improve his match fitness or prospects of finding a new club.

Head coach Kenny Jackett is quite relaxed about the situation but it would appear to make it harder for Johnson to

Wolves

impress potential employers. "He didn't refuse to play but he feels the training is keeping him fit and he doesn't need the games," said Jackett.

"I'm not one that makes people play in the Under-21s.

Wanted

"But I'm sure if I'd said I wanted him to, he would. If I feel someone needs to play, they play.

"But if you implement that on someone who doesn't want to play, you can lose the

other 10 that are playing and our production and development is very important to us.

"Whatever Roger needs to do to keep himself fit to move on is fine.

"Some say 'I feel ready to play but I don't want to get injured', others say 'I need to play'.

"We have a lot of young players here for the Under-21s to be made up of them.

"Take Jamie O'Hara; he's saying 'I want to get into condition and I've got people coming to see me'.

"Jamie played well individually against Everton and was fine to all of the kids. Take

Stephen Ward; he played the first game but not the next, because a move was imminent."

Jackett said he was not aware Johnson is close to a move.

Twinge

Keeper Wayne Hennessey has recovered from the hamstring twinge that stopped his month's loan to Yeovil but Dave Edwards (ankle) has been ruled out for Friday's televised visit of Crawley.

"Wayne's back out there training," said Jackett. "If an opportunity comes up, we'll send him out on loan again."

Opening winner in comfort

Lincoln United 1 Yeltz 3
HALESOWEN comfortably won their first game of the season, with new boy Chris Lait scoring on his debut and producing a man of the match performance.

All the goals were scored in the first half, but Halesowen could have had more in both as they put on an impressive attacking performance.

Ben Haseley and Jean Michel-Gueyes both went close early on and it was the former who gave them the lead on 23 minutes with a neat finish from Gavin Winsper's headed flick on.

Lait set up the second goal two minutes later when he crossed and Aaron Griffiths converted from close range.

Lincoln got back in the game on 32 minutes when a low shot from Danny Brooks found its way into the net.

But the Yeltz' two goal cushion was restored straight after the restart when a ball forward from Neil McKenzie reached Michel-Gueyes to score.

Halesowen had further chances in the second half but missed a penalty on 82 minutes after Michel-Gueyes was brought down but Lait saw his shot saved by home goalkeeper Gavin Saxby.

Start date is set for darts season

SEDGLEY & Gornal Darts League, has decided, following the success of the first season, to start the new one from September 17.

Registration and fees have to be paid by September 3 and any other teams who would like to join, from anywhere in the Dudley area, are welcome. Please contact League Secretary, Rob Carey, on 07881 453285.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettle, Telford, Thursday, August 22, 2013.

KETTLE STEAMS IN FOR THE ONLY GOAL

Halesowen Town 0 Sutton Coldfield Town 1
SUTTON ran out as narrow winners in Halesowen's high-tempo first league home game.

Halesowen suffered an early blow when defender Dan Parker limped off and it was the highly-rated Royals who started brightly with Stuart McNaught scooping a great 13th minute chance over the bar from just eight yards.

After weathering the early storm, the Yeltz settled to control the game up to the half-time break.

Gavin Winsper struck the side-netting and his down-header brought a fine save from goalkeeper Lee Evans.

Chris Lait then volleyed narrowly over the bar after Jean-Michel Gueyes whipped in a 34th minute corner.

Cleared

The Yeltz went close again four minutes into the second period when Ben Haseley's shot was cleared off the line by Scott Lycett.

Full-back Kristian Green then pumped an excellent deep 62nd minute cross into the Sutton area to find Haseley outside and free, but the ball ran away from Haseley's first touch.

Despite the continuing intensity and fast pace, chances proved fewer in the second period and it seemed increasingly likely that just one break of the ball would be enough to win the game.

And so it proved as Sutton snatched a 70th minute winner when home substitute Brendan Kelly was caught out and Joel

The Yeltz

Kettle stole in to poke the ball under Paul Evans.

The Royals held firm against late Halesowen pressure and the final chance to salvage a point came in the last minute when substitute Nigel Penney headed on but Haseley's header was easily saved.

Halesowen Town: Paul Evans (c); Kristian Green, Adam Meacham, Neil MacKenzie (Matthew Martin 73), Gavin Winsper, Dan Parker (Brendan Kelly 9), Chris Lait, Tom Tonks, Aaron Griffiths (Nigel Penney 81), Ben Haseley, Jean-Michel Gueyes.

Unused Subs: Sam Whitehurst, Sam Pearson (GK)

Sutton Coldfield Town: Lee Evans; Scott Lycett, Matt Jackson, Stuart McNaught, Joel Kettle (Phillip Male 86), Tyrone Williams, Jamie Sheldon (Reece Leek 72), Craig Milligan, Tom Rawlings (Craig Marshall 53), Mark Danks (c), Luke Chapman.

Unused Subs: Nathan Thompson, Lewis Gwilliams (GK).

Referee: David Sallis
Attendance: 335

Young fans are putting their shirts on Wolves



Young Wolves players Liam McAlinden, left, and Zeli Ismail sign shirts at the club's shop in Wolverhampton. Pictured with them are 12-year-old Ryan Clifton and Chloe Clifton, 10, from Finchfield.

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